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Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-87-243
Friday
18 December 1987

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

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LD181409 [Editorial Report]

Libya

Israeli Overflight Claim—Libyan intelligence sources and radars detected "Zionist" aircraft flying north of Tubruq and northeast of Al-Abraq 16 December, Tripoli television reported. The intruders received "protection" from an "umbrella" of Egyptian aircraft and from U.S. 6th Fleet planes that were carrying out observation missions to alert the Israeli planes in case there were any Libyan aircraft in the area, the television claimed. It said this is evidence of a U.S.-Egyptian agreement to support "a Zionist aggression" against Libya. The television added that Libyan planes "repulsed the Israeli aircraft" and that Libyan missile batteries were prepared for action.

The Foreign Liaison Bureau summoned Arab ambassadors to Libya to inform them about the "provocative" Israeli overflights of Libyan territorial waters, Voice of Greater Arab Homeland radio reported, noting the Bureau's view that this incident confirms Libya's warnings against recognizing both "the Zionist enemy" and the Egyptian regime.

Closure of Nairobi Bureau—A Kenyan Foreign Ministry press release cited by KNA announced Kenya's decision to immediately close the Libyan "embassy" in Nairobi because it has been consistently used for "gross interference" in Kenya's internal affairs.

Gulf War

Shipping sources cited by AFP reported two Iranian attacks on shipping in the southern Gulf region 18 December. Iranian gunboats fired at the Saudi supertanker "Saudi Splendor" off Dubayy, and later targeted the Norwegian supertanker "Happy Kari" in the Strait of Hormuz. Both attacks sparked off fires, though no casualties were reported. In further reportage on the Iranian attacks on a Maldivian cargo ship the previous day, Radio Monte Carlo noted that Iranian speedboats fired at a helicopter carrying a CBS team that was filming in the area.

The "devastating" fires caused by recent Iranian attacks on shipping have led experts to speculate on the type of weapons now being used by Iran, AFP noted. "Informed" maritime sources cited by the UAE's AL-ITTIHAD asserted that Iran is using a new type of Chinese-made missile which can carry incendiary warheads and is capable of inflicting heavy damage, according to WAKH. The missile is small in size and can be fired from any type of vessel, the report said.

Lebanon

South—Two "terrorists" and one SLA soldier were killed when an SLA force was ambushed north of Al-Khiyam 18 December, IDF radio reported. Four SLA men were wounded in the exchange of fire. Earlier, Beirut radio stated that Islamic resistance fighters killed four "enemy" soldiers in the 17 December clash with SLA and IDF units in the Hasbayya area. A Lebanese note to the United Nations accused the Israelis of killing or wounding over 25 people in the 15 December IDF operation around Maydun, the radio noted.

North—A Syrian official cited by Beirut radio accused Christian media of "distorting" the situation in the Al-Kurah area, stressing that "nothing unusual" is taking place there and that Syrian forces arrested only seven persons after a recent attack on a Syrian soldier.

Israel

An 18 December editorial in THE JERUSALEM POST criticized "self-deluding official interpretations" of the wave of disorder in Gaza, Judaea, and Samaria, describing as "autistic nonsense" the offical view that the riots were fomented by the PLO. Stressing that those confronting IDF soldiers were not "shifty terrorists" but "daring youngsters," the POST said the Arabs in the occupied territories have served notice that they will not reconcile themselves to permanent Israeli rule over their lives. In contrast, IDF sources cited by Jerusalem radio blamed the ongoing violence on "ringleaders" who deliberately sought to provoke and attack Israeli soldiers in the most violent way possible.

A local resident was wounded when IDF soldiers fired rubber bullets to disperse disturbances in Nabulus 17 December, the radio noted.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Saudi Tour—Saudi Crown Prince 'Abdallah will begin an Arab tour 19 December during which he will visit Baghdad, Damascus, Cairo, and Amman, SPA disclosed. The tour is within the framework of King Fahd's efforts to unify Arab ranks, restore Arab solidarity, and strengthen the Kingdom's role in Arab issues, the agency added.

Egyptian-Kuwaiti Talks—Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh Salim al-Sabah revealed that "the exchange of Egyptian expertise in matters of air, land, and naval defense" was among topics discussed during his recent talks with the Egyptian defense minister, KUNA reported. However, he denied reports that Kuwait has signed an arms deal with Egypt for the supply of Egyptian weapons.

Maghreb Affairs

Tunisia—Abdelfattah Mourou, secretary general of the Islamic Tendency Movement (ITM), told Paris radio that President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali's decision to waive the death penalty for ITM official Ali Laarid is a "positive act" that shows the new president is keeping his promises. Mourou expressed hope that verdicts against ITM leaders will be annulled by amnesty so that those in custody or in exile will be able to return and participate in the "great change in political life." In a related development, Algiers radio reported that a Tunisian court has dropped charges against 60 ITM members.

Morocco-Algeria—Moroccan and Algerian Foreign Ministry officials began talks in Rabat 17 December, MAP noted.

Sudan

In a statement reported by Omdurman radio, the progovernment Anyanya-II movement claimed that its forces killed 340 SPLA fighters in one of several recent attacks on "outlaw" camps. The radio also broadcast remarks by Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi prior to his departure for Jordan in which he said Sudan wants its friends and neighbors to acknowledge that it has been exposed to foreign "aggression" and to express their readiness to respond to any request from Sudan concerning its self-defense. Al-Mahdi subsequently met with King Husayn in Amman, and talks were also held between the Sudanese and Jordanian armed forces commanders, according to Amman television.

Afghanistan-Pakistan

Kabul radio reported that Afghanistan protested to Pakistan over a 10 December incident in which Pakistani forces allegedly fired at Afghan aircraft carrying out "routine reconnaissance flights."

XINHUA subsequently cited reports that large Soviet troop concentrations have been seen at Barikowt, near the border with Pakistan, adding that surface-to-surface missiles have been installed in the area.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Asks PDRY To Suspend Death Sentences
JN171642 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1430 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Dec (WAKH)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has appealed to the PDRY leadership not to carry out the sentences passed against former President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and 34 of his supporters. A reliable Palestinian source told a WAKH correspondent in Baghdad that 'Arafat gave an urgent message to this effect to the PDRY ambassador in Baghdad last night.

The Supreme Court in Aden has issued death sentences in absentia against 17 defendants, in addition to former President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, and in presence against 17 other defendants in connection with the January 1986 events.

The source said that in his message 'Arafat called on YSP Secretary General 'Ali Salim al-Bid and Chairman Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, in the name of the militant relations between the Palestinian revolution and the PDRY and to maintain the spirit of brotherhood, to suspend the death sentences.

PLO Communique on Israeli 'Aggression'
JN171952 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1815 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Communique issued by the PLO on 15 December; place not given]

[Text] This new Zionist military aggression against southern Lebanon confirms the PLO's announcement that the enemy will launch an aggression to cover the Zionist massacres of our people in the occupied homeland. The aggression came after the Zionist enemy failed to confront our people's glorious uprising in the various cities, villages, and camps in the occupied West Bank and Gaza.

This aggression also came after the Israeli war minister had signed an agreement in Washington under which Israel has become part of NATO. This proves the U.S. Administration's involvement in this aggression against our Palestinian and Lebanese peoples.

PLO Communique Warns of 'New Aggression'
JN171942 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1815 GMT 16 Dec 87

["Text" of military communique issued by the PLO on 16 December; place not given]

[Text] Since 0630 today, the perimeters of the Shatila camp have been under intensive sniper fire. This has created a tense, alert atmosphere in the camp and the surrounding area. At the same time, enemy soldiers have opened fire on Palestinian citizens dmonstrating in the occupied West Bank and Gaza cities and camps in the face of the occupation and its forces and for the sake of freedom and independence.

Opening fire on the Shatila camp at this particular time will certainly serve the occupation forces, which are firing at random on the Palestinian people inside the occupied homeland. It will also serve the enemy army, which is preparing to launch a new aggression against Lebanese villages and Palestinian camps, whose counterparts are waging a fierce confrontation battle against the Zionist enemy in the occupied territories today. The PLO urges all Lebanese and Islamic national forces to fully support the Palestinian revolutionaries to confront the occupation forces in southern Lebanon and occupied Palestine.

We urge our brothers, the heroic Lebanese people, who have waged glorious battles side by side with the Palestinian people, to be vigilant in the face of the Zionist enemy and all suspect attempts to draw the national forces into the trap of peripheral battles. Revolution until victory.

Israeli Soldier Stabbed in Gaza Strip
JN171947 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1809 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Communique by a military spokesman for the Palestinian Revolution Forces General Command; date and place not given]

[Text] In support of our people's heroic uprising, in response to the ugly occupation's crimes, and in escalation of the armed struggle, one of our heroic revolutionaries operating inside the occupied homeland yesterday attacked a Zionist soldier with a knife. The soldier was carrying out repressive measures against the sons of our people in the steadfast Gaza Strip. Several deadly blows were dealt to the Zionist soldier and our revolutionary then returned safely to base. The (?Zionist enemy) admitted this heroic operation, saying the soldier was taken by helicopter to a hospital in Beersheba, and that the situation is very critical. Revolution until victory.

Algeria

Arrest Warrant Issued for Ex-Minister Skhiri

LD172145 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] In Tunis yesterday, the senior examining magistrate issued an arrest warrant against Mansour Skhiri, former minister of equipment, on the charges of mismanaging public funds and illegally appropriating funds.

The criminal court yesterday also decided to drop charges against 60 members of the Islamic Tendency Movement. It decided to sentence 21 other persons to suspended jail sentences of 6 months. It additionally sentenced six people in absentia to 6 months in prison.

Egypt

Al-Baz Reportedly To Visit Syria 'Next Week'

JN181011 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0942 GMT 18 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo—Press reports in Cairo today said that Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and head of the Egyptian president's Political Affairs Office, will visit Syria during the middle of next week. The Egyptian opposition newspaper AL-WAFD said that during his visit Al-Baz will discuss the arrangements for Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

Abu Ghazalah Returns to Cairo From Kuwait

NC171343 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1320 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Excerpts] Cairo, 17 Dec (MENA)—Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, returned to Cairo from Kuwait this afternoon following a 4-day visit. [passage omitted]

In an arrival statement, Abu Ghalazah described his visit to Kuwait as successful in every way. He said its results will appear after study. He added that he will report to President Mubarak on the outcome of this visit. He also noted that an exhibition of Egyptian defense equipment will be inaugurated in Kuwait next week.

USSR's Vinogradov Meets With Assembly Speaker

NC171338 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1305 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Excerpt] Cairo, 17 Dec (MENA)—This afternoon People's Assembly Speaker Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub received Vladimir Vinogradov, chairman of the USSR-Egyptian Friendship Society, and the delegation accompanying him who are currently paying a visit to Cairo. At the meeting, which was attended by USSR Ambassador Gennadiy Zhuravlev, recent developments in the Middle East, the issue of an international peace conference, and the Gulf war were discussed. Bilateral relations were also reviewed. [passage omitted]

Received by Butrus Ghali

NC181232 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1205 GMT 18 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 18 Dec (MENA)—In his capacity as chairman of the Egyptian-Soviet Friendship Society, Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, received the Soviet-Egyptian Friendship Society delegation led by RSFSR Foreign Minister Vladimir Vinogradov.

An expanded meeting was also held between the Soviet-Egyptian Friendship Society delegation and the Board of Directors of the Egyptian-Soviet Friendship Society. The conferees discussed future programs and activities of both societies and the efforts being made to promote mutual understanding of the two countries and to develop friendship between the Soviet and Egyptian peoples.

Vinogradov and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Cairo on Monday for a week-long visit at the invitation of the Egyptian-Soviet Friendship Society.

ICO Secretary General Pirzada Departs 17 Dec

NC171856 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1810 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 17 Dec (MENA)—ICO Secretary General Sharifuddin Pirzada left Cairo this evening following a 3-day visit to Egypt during which he met with President Husni Mubarak; Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Awqaf Minister Dr Muhammad 'Ali Mahjub; and Al-Azhar Imam Shaykh Jad al-Haq 'Ali Jad al-Haq.

Information Minister Meets Kenyan Counterpart

NC171900 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif received Kenyan Information Minister Noah Katana Ngala and his accompanying delegation in his office this evening. The two ministers reviewed bilateral relations, particularly in the field of information, as well as ways to bolster them and the challenges facing the African Continent in the future. They also discussed the outcome of the nonaligned countries' radio conference, which was held in Cyprus last week.

Liberal Party Head Interviewed on Iran Visit

PM171641 Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic
14 Dec 87 p 7

[Interview with Liberal Party Secretary General Muhammad 'Abd al-Shafi by Muhammad al-Faqiy in Cairo "after his return from Iran"]

[Excerpts] [Al-Faqiy] The reason for your visit to Tehran was to attend the conference on the sanctity and security of the holy mosque. What do they mean by the sanctity and security of the holy mosque?

['Abd al-Shafi] The main reason for the visit was the fact that they had decided to hold an international Islamic conference to examine and discuss the sanctity and security of the holy mosque in view of the bloody events involving the Iranian pilgrims when they staged their procession during the pilgrimage season last year.

[Al-Faqiy] Why did the Iranians stage that procession?

['Abd al-Shafi] We actually asked them what had made the Iranian pilgrims stage the procession. Their answer was that that wasn't the first time such a procession had been staged. After the Iranian revolution Imam Khomeyni issued instructions that the Koranic sura [chapter] on the renunciation of infidels be applied, so on every pilgrimage season the Iranian pilgrims are supposed to stage a procession to repudiate the infidels.

[Al-Faqiy] Who, in their view, are the infidels?

['Abd al-Shafi] They see the United States, Russia, and Israel as the infidels. [passage omitted]

[Al-Faqiy] Is it not just possible that the Saudi regime sensed that they intended to resort to violence?

['Abd al-Shafi] The Iranians say that the procession was peaceful. Although 150,000 pilgrims were involved, the way the procession was organized proved beyond a doubt that there was no intention whatsoever to use violence. It was organized in such a way that women were at the front, followed by disabled people in wheelchairs, who were followed by people carrying a replica of the Al-Aqsa Mosque usurped by the Jews. [passage omitted]

[Al-Faqiy] Were you and Liberal Party Secretary Al-Hamzah Da'bas the only Egyptian representatives at the conference?

['Abd al-Shafi] I and my colleague Liberal Party Secretary Da'bas were not the only ones from Egypt. There were, to our surprise, four others whom we only met on the plane. They are unknown politically but were invited because they had written books on the Iraq-Iran war.

[Al-Faqiy] What were the results of the conference?

['Abd al-Shafi] It declared Khomeyni as the detonator of the Islamic revolution in Iran and the leader of the Muslims. It named Tehran as the capital of the Islamic world. I voiced my objection to that. I did not agree with it because it only intensifies differences and opens new fronts against the Islamic revolution to exhaust and weaken it further. I told them that what is happening now is tantamount to a new plot against and a new trap for the Iranian revolution, a trap which I said I hoped they would not fall into because world imperialism does not want anything good for the Muslims. [passage omitted]

[Al-Faqiy] What is the size of the opposition in Iran?

['Abd al-Shafi] They told us that it is insignificant, contrary to what it was when the revolution first broke out, when some counterrevolutionaries were able to plant bombs in meeting places inflicting many casualties. Security precautions now prevent such incidents.

[Al-Faqiy] What is the situation there at present? Tell us how the people who have been at war for 7 years are living.

['Abd al-Shafi] We noticed that the streets are almost empty of young men because they are all in the Army, at the front. The Army is financed by the Iranian people. We have learned that they are preparing a Muhammad army 20 million strong, as they say. The supply situation in the areas I visited is stable and goods are available, including vegetables, fruits, and meat. We did not see any lines or sense any crisis. [passage omitted]

[Al-Faqiy] How could they consider Israel to be an enemy when they import arms from it?

['Abd al-Shafi] The aim of such allegations is to undermine the Islamic revolution. One of the main objectives of the Islamic revolution is to destroy Israel and recover Al-Aqsa Mosque from the Jews. The story, as told to us by them, is simply that the United States owes Iran $16 billion, being the price of the arms not delivered by the United States in the days of the shah. So, they say, we asked them to send us a consignment of U.S. missiles and we specified the type we wanted.

The consignment was shipped but instead of going directly to Iran, it went, without our knowledge, to Israel, where the Israelis substituted for the new missiles old ones of inferior quality after painting them and printing the required signs and numbers on them; that is how we got the missiles, but we did not know what had happened until some time later.

As regards the Israeli Uzi submachine gun used by the Iranian fighters, their explanation was that the shah's regime had imported a quantity of these guns from Israel and that, because of its high quality, Iranian plants began manufacturing it, which is no disgrace to Iran. They strongly condemn agency allegations against them, especially because the aim of the Islamic revolution is to reach Israel and recover Al-Aqsa Mosque from the Jews.

[Al-Faqiy] Why does Iran insist on widening the war and why does it strike at Kuwait?

['Abd al-Shafi] We remonstrated them about widening the war and about the attack on an oil rig very close to Kuwait. We told them that that action had a profound effect on Arabs and Muslims. They replied: We had warned Kuwait against becoming a conduit for arms and ammunition going to Iraq, but, regrettably, Kuwait did not take our warnings seriously, so we hit the oil rig and Kuwait stopped helping Iraq. [passage omitted]

[Al-Faqiy] Did you get a promise that the Egyptian prisoners would be released?

['Abd al-Shafi] We raised the question of Egyptian prisoners with them. They told us that there are two categories of such prisoners: One is the category of prisoners who were working in the fields or other work locations and were in no way connected with the fighting when they were taken prisoner, and the other is the category of prisoners who actually carried arms and participated in the fighting alongside the Iraqi forces.

They told us that they are prepared to release the prisoners through a dialogue between the Iranian authorities and Egyptian religious scholars known for their independent views and for not being subject to the Egyptian authorities. They approved of Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali, Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Isa, and Dr 'Abd al-Fattah al-Jundi. I must say here we discovered that main streets in Iran are named after Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid Kishk, martyr Hasan al-Banna, and martyr Sayyid Qutb.

[Al-Faqiy] Iran accuses Egypt of helping Iraq with men and arms. Did you discuss such matters with them?

['Abd al-Shafi] They said that they care about Egypt and that they are interested in reestablishing contact with it. They are not very much affected by Egypt's assistance to Iraq and would not be even if Egypt joined in the war because, they say, they are confronting the U.S. Navy itself. We considered such talk on their part as an invitation for the resumption of dialogue with Egypt. They gave us verbal messages for Egyptian President Husni Mubarak but we cannot give any details.

[Al-Faqiy] What is the state of the minorities under the Islamic revolution. Are they persecuted?

['Abd al-Shafi] They boast that the Christian and Jewish minorities live in Iran peacefully because the tolerant Islamic shari'ah guarantees them security and allows them to work and earn a living. We asked them about the Jews who left Iran for Israel. Their answer was that escape incidents occur everywhere in the world, adding that after such incidents they were able to plug the gaps and prevent the exit of Jews from Iran.

[Al-Faqiy] Why do they take such a hard-line position on the question of ending the war and why have they rejected the Security Council resolution?

['Abd al-Shafi] With regard to their rejection of the Security Council resolution calling for a cease-fire, they believe that the Security Council is controlled by the United States and that the United States is biased against them. They do not want to give the Iraqi regime the chance to catch its breath and are wary of their enemy's cunning. However, I have learned from some sources there that, through Egypt, many things could be reconsidered.

[Al-Faqiy] What things?

['Abd al-Shafi] I will refrain from revealing them until the efforts we started there succeed. They believe that the United States and the Arabs are lying in wait for the Islamic revolution to prevent it from spreading, although the United States did secretly offer to deal with Islamic Iran within Iran's boundaries only in return for an Iranian promise not to export the Islamic revolution.

[Al-Faqiy] Did you meet with Imam Khomeyni and is his control of affairs there less now than it was before?

['Abd al-Shafi] We met with him in the framework of a large meeting held at a Tehran mosque. He is in good health for a man of his age. We felt he still has the upper hand in all the decisions of the various commands. [passage omitted]

AL-ITTIHAD on Shamir Message to Mubarak

JN171615 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic
15 Dec 87 p 3

[Text] Cairo, AL-ITTIHAD—Enemy Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has threatened to abrogate the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty because of what he called the direct involvement of the Egyptian Defense Ministry in the border incident at Rafah on the Egyptian-Palestinian border in which a Zionist soldier was wounded.

AL-ITTIHAD has learned that in his message to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, Shamir reiterated his total rejection of all the Egyptian justifications advanced to explain the incident, demanded the immediate handing over of the persons who carried out the operation, and threatened that the Israeli response will be violent if this demand is rejected. Shamir added that in such a case, Israel will have no choice but to abrogate the treaty because of what he called repeated Egyptian violations.

Shamir went on to say the Zionist entity has strong evidence corroborating the claim that the Egyptian Defense Ministry is involved in the incident. Egypt has denied the Israeli accusation and reiterated that the incident was a brief one. The Egyptian Defense Ministry has affirmed that it had no ties whatsoever with the incident. The Ministry added it rejects the idea of sending any citizen to a court outside Egyptian territory. It also pointed out that it also rejects the idea of sending an Israeli investigation committee to operate in Egyptian territory and said it also rejects the tone of warning used in Shamir's message.

Israeli Threat Noted

JN171458 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic
15 Dec 87 pp 1, 6

[By 'Abd al-Nabi 'Abd al-Sattar]

[Text] The Israeli authorities have threatened to cancel the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty on the pretext that Egypt continues to violate the provisions of the Camp David accords and to allow anti-Israeli elements to launch fedayeen attacks on Israeli forces from Egyptian territory.

In a secret message to the political leadership in Egypt, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir called on Egypt to quickly apprehend and extradite all those involved in the attack on an Israeli patrol at the Rafah border post on the Egyptian-Israeli border, during which three Israeli soldiers were killed. AL-WAFD has learned that President Husni Mubarak has strongly rejected the Israeli warning and the tone of the message.

Moshe Sason, Israeli ambassador in Cairo, told Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, during their meeting on Tuesday that he would be leaving his post within a month at the latest because Egyptian officials do not like to deal with him and because all the Egyptian news media continue to attack him. The ambassador also told Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid that he had sent a report to his government on the recent deterioration of Egyptian-Israeli relations.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid refused to receive the Israeli ambassador immediately after the Rafah incident and instructed the Foreign Ministry's Israeli Department officials to reject any Israeli protests on the incident.

AL-WAFD has learned that the Israeli War [as published] Ministry had 2 months ago reinforced Israeli forces along the Egyptian border following statements by Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, on the real danger threatening Egypt and the size of the Egyptian Armed Forces in Sinai.

AL-WAFD has also learned that President Mubarak sent a message to Yitzhaq Shamir 2 days ago in which he condemned the Israeli occupation forces' massacres of defenseless civilians in the occupied territories in which scores of Palestinians were killed or wounded. In his message, President Mubarak stressed that Egypt is entitled to take all necessary measures on the international scene to stop such acts at once. Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid sent a similar message to Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

Last week Egypt held intensive contacts with the Palestinian leaders on the deteriorating situation in the occupied territories.

Libya

U.S., Egyptian, 'Zionist' Flight Detected

LD172043 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic
2000 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] Libyan Arab intelligence sources and Libyan radars yesterday detected Zionist aircraft northeast of Al-Abraq. These planes were protected by an Egyptian umbrella and a number of aircraft from the U.S. 6th Fleet. This indicates that Egypt and the U.S. 6th Fleet have agreed to back a Zionist aggression against the Great Jamahiriyah. This is an illustrative map showing the route taken by the Zionist aircraft. [video shows map indicating where detection occurred] They were detected north of Tobruq as they were heading for Al-Abraq, where they were also detected.

In addition, there were also Egyptian warplanes on our eastern border. Aircraft of the U.S. 6th Fleet were carrying out an observation flight to warn the Israeli planes of any Libyan aircraft in the air. The green line shows the Libyan warplanes that repulsed the Israeli aircraft, in addition to the missile batteries that were ready to repel the aggression. The Al-Fatih is great!

Arab Diplomats Briefed

LD180113 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic
0015 GMT 18 Dec 87

[Text] The People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison yesterday evening summoned the heads of the Arab diplomatic missions in the Great Jamahiriyah to tell them the following:

Israeli aircraft have conducted flights over our territorial waters northeast of the Al-Abraq region. This operation was carried out under the protection of aircraft belonging to the U.S. 6th Fleet and an Egyptian aerial umbrella.

This provocative and treacherous act by the Zionist enemy confirms what we have always said; namely, that signing the Camp David accords and recognizing the Zionist enemy can only be a bridge for the Zionist enemy, at the expense of pan-Arab security and supreme Arab interests. This is confirmed by the fact that Israel is now killing Palestinian citizens in Gaza and on the West Bank.

Israel has carried out this provocative military action against the Great Jamahiriyah after the Arabs restored diplomatic relations with Egypt. This is what we were afraid of, but also what we were expecting. We emphasized to the Arab brothers the dangers of recognizing the Egyptian regime, which has thrown itself into the bosom of the Zionist enemy.

The People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison asked the heads of the Arab diplomatic missions to convey this information to their governments.

U.S. 'Economic Blockade' Renewal Condemned

LD172237 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] I have just received the following: VOA has reported that the head of the U.S. Administration has decided to continue what he termed the economic blockade against the Great Jamahiriyah. JANA's political affairs editor commented on this by saying: What VOA attributed to the head of the terrorist U.S. Administration, Reagan, compels us—in addition to the fact that this administration has reiterated the racism, rancor, terrorist inclination, and hegemony which dominate political decisions in Washington, as well as the persons making them—to stress two points:

1. We in the Great Jamahiriyah were not surprised by such a decision. What would have surprised us is if the U.S. Yankee had refrained from his aggressive and provocative policy against us, given the fact that the U.S. Administration—with its current head, its intelligence apparatuses, and its destructive weapons—is still the United States, the enemy of the peoples, the carrier of the banner of sabotage, the one who lusts to annihilate others, and the one with the crazy dream of transforming the world into a U.S. dominion.

2. Such a U.S. policy, coinciding with the Zionist provocations that are supported by the United States against the Great Jamahiriyah, and the threats against it, together with the escalation of the oppressive Zionist campaign against the Arab masses in the occupied territories, stresses the credibility of the Great al-Fatih Revolution's analysis of the U.S.-Soviet summit. This analysis states, as the brother leader of the revolution emphasized in his statement to JANA on such a summit, that history has taught whenever the great agree, it will be at the expense of the weak. As a result, a number of peoples, including the Lebanese, the Libyans, and the Palestinians, may be forced to pay the price.

Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses Arab Opposition Parties

LD130205 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2045 GMT 12 Dec 87

[Address by Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi at the opening session of the pan-Arab conference of Arab opposition parties held at the People's Hall in Tripoli on 12 December—recorded]

[Text] Good evening and welcome. How are you? In the name of God, I welcome you, brothers, in your country. I thank you for accepting our invitation and for being here today. I wish you a good stay and success in your proceedings.

I remember that we have met once before. During this meeting, as well as after it, we must revise what we decided in our earlier conference years ago—I don't remember how many years ago. Regardless of that first conference of the Arab opposition, however, we now have a proposed agenda before us. It is open to additions proposed by any delegation from the Arab opposition. I will try to express my opinion briefly, since you do not need me to analyze the negative situation facing the Arabs or the deteriorating situation of the Arab nation. Regrettably, the situation has been worsening for a long time. Today, it is critical and bad. Even if we repeated this statement on every occasion, I still believe that the situation has currently reached an unprecedented degree, one unprecedented in this era and in our times.

The condition of the Arab nation was already deteriorating. It has been colonized and torn apart, but it resisted, stood up, and triumphed. Now another regrettable setback, a misfortune, and further bad luck has befallen this nation. It was this worsening state of the nation that pushed me to resort, among other things, to the dynamic Arab opposition movements so that maybe they could do something.

In fact, I possess neither magic nor exorcisms, nor even an integral project with which to treat this setback we are facing. But my idea is for the Arab opposition forces to meet and to discuss the situation so that we can come up with a particular course with which to save our nation. The points included in the proposed agenda are efforts to achieve this end. The goal to which I want to draw your attention is that of Arab unity. Any attempt that does not seek to establish Arab unity will not be a solution. All problems, failures, challenges, and aggression flow from the condition of Arab unity. Thus, it is agreed that if Arab unity exists, then the force with which we can face this situation exists at all levels. If there is no unity, then there is weakness. This causes collapse and rapid deterioration on all fronts.

We must turn our attention to the need for anything that leads to the attainment of Arab unity.

There is a historic and regrettably long-standing issue; namely, that of liberating Palestine. This has become forever linked with the question of Arab unity. There are other Arab territories that are occupied; there are other problems and threats to the entire Arab homeland from every direction. But the question of Palestine—since it is long-standing, since it represents an entire occupied Arab country whose people have been evicted while the remaining people live under occupation, and since an aggressive base has been established in this Arab country—has become a threat to the entire Arab existence.

Our conflict with this enemy that occupies Palestine has become a struggle for existence, not a fight over a border. This is what we always hear. We read about it in the papers and we hear about it on the radio. It is a struggle for existence, not a fight over borders. This is a fact. Therefore, the question of Palestine has become forever linked with the question of Arab unity to the extent that there are people who say that we can attain Arab unity through the liberation of Palestine and that with the unity of the Arabs, Palestine will then be liberated. In fact, the two issues are indeed intertwined to such an extent. We can unite by directing our policies toward Palestine, and we can become united for the sake of liberating Palestine.

The fundamental issue before us is to work to attain this Arab unity. Closely tied to this issue is the question of liberating Palestine, since there is a true danger manifested in the occupation of Palestine. This danger is no longer confined to the Palestinian people alone, but has instead become a threat to the rest of the Arab nation, to the Arab homeland. This is the basis upon which I want all extent Arab forces to rally and to discuss matters. We should struggle to attain it by using all the means at our disposal.

The current political issues—the questions of the hour—are on the agenda even though they are temporary, for they have affected the Arab political situation. As for the Arab political situation, we believe that there is a popular force you are supposed to lead by virtue of your being the Arab opposition. There are Arab regimes that are supposed to be popular, while there are Arab regimes that are reactionary and dictatorial. The latter are lackeys; they are hostile to the masses and stand against you as an Arab opposition. They persecute you.

The current political situation has even affected the political relations between the Arab revolutionary forces—I mean between one Arab revolutionary state and another. The current problem has created excuses for diversions from the fundamental goal: the unity of the Arab nation and the liberation of Palestine. For example, when I talk with King Hassan of Morocco about liberating Palestine, he replies: First free my army from the Sahara so that I can take it to Palestine. He says: There are 80,000 Moroccan soldiers engaged in a war against an Arab faction belonging to that Arab force about which you are talking. Free these 80,000 soldiers from this campaign so that I can place them at your disposal or at the disposal of whoever wants to liberate Palestine.

That is how he anwered me. A problem like the Sahara has thus created a justification for Morocco, for example, to turn away from Arab unity and from the liberation of Palestine. Morocco talks about liberating the Sahara instead of liberating Palestine.

When we approach a country such as Sudan and talk to it about the liberation of Palestine, it says: Let us free the south. The problem of the south is a temporary political problem, but it has created an excuse for Sudan, regardless of the regime ruling it then or now. They say: Let us liberate the south first. If I tell Iraq, let us liberate Palestine now, it will simply laugh and reply: I am facing a war with all my resources. All of my capabilities are directed against Iran. How can I think about the liberation of Palestine? I want to liberate Al-Faw or Majnun Island. Even the Jamahiriyah can now say that Aozou is threatened, that my borders are imperiled, that the Gulf of Sidra is endangered, that I want to liberate the Gulf of Sidra and Aozou, for example, so that I can then devote my efforts to liberating Palestine.

As a result of this, these subjects have been placed on the agenda as current political situations that we, as Arab opposition forces, seek to resolve. If we succeed in solving the problem of the Sahara, then we will remove the excuses that Morocco uses for not devoting its efforts to liberating Palestine. We will also succeed in putting an end to Arabs shedding the blood of other Arabs over an Arab territory. My belief as a unity-seeking Arab is that I see no justification for fighting between Arabs on Arab land. The final aim should be unity between two Arab lands; these two should be one Arab land. If Morocco prevails, then the land will become Moroccan. However, if the Polisario prevails, for example—and let us suppose it then occupied Morocco—they would become one state. So, so what?

I believe that it is the peak of blasphemy to have a war on Arab land for the sake of gaining this territory for another Arab. This is one Arab homeland; we are one Arab people. As unionists, we do not believe in this division at all. We do not believe that this is your land and that this is my land. This land belongs to all of us. Why should there be fighting between the Moroccans and the Saharan people? Why should there be Moroccans and Saharans? Why can't they all be Moroccans or Saharans? There is a matter in which we, as revolutionaries, can be interested and which we recognize, if the war is a revolutionary one, and if the Polisario raises the slogan of liberating Morocco, the realization of socialism and Arab unity, and the establishment of a popular Jamahiri regime in Morocco. Maybe we can be interested in this, for this might be a revolutionary war. If it is a revolutionary war, then all revolutionary forces will stand by the Polisario and all the reactionary forces will oppose it. How I wish that the conflicts in the Arab world were between revolutionary and reactionary forces! However, the Polisario raises the cry of independence for the Sahara, not the liberation of Morocco. If it indeed raises the slogan of liberation for Morocco, then I will openly support it. I will fight with the Saharan people if they want to liberate Morocco and unite this region. Even if they want to march on Algeria, Tunisia, and Libya after this, I will be with them. It will then be an Arab revolution that will pull down the artificial borders in this region, boundaries that were established by the French, the Italians, and even the British. But a war for independence for Arabs? What independence, and independence from whom?

This problem has naturally affected relations between Algeria and Morocco. Perhaps it has contributed to making Morocco—not Morocco, but the king of Morocco—show his policy of receiving the prime minister of the enemy on Arab soil. This is blasphemy as far as we are concerned. Now the effort to unify the Arab Maghreb is being put forward, and we have left the initiative to lead this effort to the brothers in Algeria.

However, the problem of the Sahara is an obstacle to this effort, to this union. When we invite Morocco to this union, Morocco states that the Sahara problem must first be resolved between itself and Algeria. How can I unite with Algeria while it supports a separatist movement against me? That is how Morocco sees it. If we exclude Morocco, then Mauritania and Tunisia might say that this is an action that will create an axis. If there is to be a union of the countries in the Arab Maghreb, then it must include the countries of the Arab Maghreb. Thus, the Sahara problem has constituted an obstacle to Arab unity. We are meeting here to try to find a way to achieve this Arab unity. A temporary or an urgent problem like this has slowed the march toward the fundamental historical goal: Arab unity and the liberation of Palestine. One says: I cannot go to Palestine because my army is busy fighting in the Sahara. The Polisario also (?has) brave fighters who should be fighting with the Palestinian resistance; but they say that their land is occupied by Morocco. Thus, this keeps us from liberating Palestine, and we have hindered an Arab force. The Moroccan Army, the Polisario—these are Arab fighting forces. These forces have been blocked, since they are involved in fighting against each other instead of directing their efforts against the common enemy.

Arab unity and the attempt to achieve a union between the countries of the Arab Maghreb have been blocked by this problem. Because of this, the Sahara problem was placed among the political issues with which we must contend as we move toward Arab unity and the liberation of Palestine. We must work to resolve these problems.

As for the so-called Gulf war, I have asserted in the statement issued about the last 2 days that it would be naive if we were to ask a favor of Gorbachev or Reagan [word indistinct] of America, to settle the Gulf War for us. The Gulf war should really be settled by either Iran or Iraq; the others cannot do anything. However, as an Arab opposition force, perhaps we will do something. It is more appropriate for us to be asked to make this effort concerning Iran and Iraq than to request the help of Gorbachev and this Yankee, the cowboy. Naturally, requesting their help has proven Arab stupidity and weakness. To beg them for things indicates Arab weakness and stupidity. What is in fact termed the Gulf war has cost us a great deal. First, we have lost the Iraqi force, which one day might have been used to liberate Palestine—this is a possibility. It can be employed on the same day as any other Arab force capable of doing this.

But, in fact, this force was not used to liberate Palestine. This war has created problems between Libya and Iraq, and between Syria and Iraq. One would think that Iraq, Syria, and the Jamahiriyah are revolutionary forces in the same front. Now they oppose each other due to this war. Both Libya and Syria think that this war should be a revolutionary conflict and not a radical one, and that we should have fighting between the Arabs and the Persians. It should be a revolutionary war.

There was a revolution in Iran that liberated Iran from U.S. influence. The United States is the bitter enemy of the Arab nation and of all people seeking liberation. Iran declared that it stands by the Palestinian people and against racism in South Africa, while the shah was a bitter enemy of the Arabs. He was a Persian and a fanatic. He used to belittle and disregard the Arabs. He used to ally himself with the United States against the Arabs. He allied himself with Israel against the Arabs. He was an artery feeding the Zionist entity with oil and money. He was an ally of the Israelis. He formerly supplied racist South Africa, the racist regime in South Africa. We, the Arabs who live in Africa, are more concerned about the question of racism in South Africa than are the Arabs who do not live in Africa. The shah occupied the Greater and Lesser Tunbs Islands and the Gulf.

Therefore, we should have fought Iran then, as a result of that situation. But to militarily oppose a revolution that toppled the shah—the ally of the United States and Israel and of the racists in South Africa—and that threw its weight on the side of the Arabs and their main cause, Palestine, is not right. This is why we thought that we should not fight against it, but instead ought to stand with it.

Iraq, which is a state that is supposed to be ideologically close to us as well as progressive and revolutionary, became involved in a war with Iran. This led to this revolutionary group—Iraq, Syria, the Jamahiriyah, and Algeria—being torn asunder. That is to say: One party engaged in a war with it while the others do not see any need to fight this revolution. In fact, we do not accept military action against this revolution.

The war has squandered huge sums of money. The reactionary Arab states have conspired against Iraq, wanting it to fight the Iranian revolution on their behalf. They want Iraq to fight the Shi'ites and revolutionary Islam for them, as if they were saying: We will fight with the last Iraqi soldier or even with the last Iraqi citizen in defense of Kuwait, the Gulf, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and Egypt. Iraq naturally became involved in this conspiracy and encouraged it with money. Iraq believed that it could win the war immediately; but it instead became apparent that this was to be a long and bitter conflict. Iraq became entangled in it. The reactionary states were then the ones wanting to get rid of Iraq.

It is impossible for the Arab reactionary states in that region to be allies of the Iraqi Ba'th Party, if we assume that there is a Ba'th Party in Iraq. At least the slogans of the Ba'th Party are very hostile and dangerous to the reactionary Arab regimes in that region. It is impossible for those reactionary regimes to defend Iraq, to give funds in defense of Iraq so that the Ba'th Party will remain in power. The Ba'th Party staged a revolution in Iraq—I mean that the regime in Iraq is now based on a revolution launched against the monarchical regime. Therefore, it is impossible for the reactionary Arab states to give money and arms to defend a regime based on a coup against a monarchical regime.

Until recently, Iraq was considered to be a revolutionary, socialist, and progressive state that had relations and a friendship treaty with the Soviet Union, not the United States. Therefore, it is impossible for the reactionary Arab states, in view of all this, to love Iraq and to defend it.

So then, why do they give generous amounts of arms and money to Iraq? They do so in order to get rid of it. They do so in order to throw Iraq into the fires of this war. Why do the United States and Israel supply Iran with arms? This is an established fact. Do they do it because Iran is not at all revolutionary? Iran is revolutionary. It opposes Zionism and imperialism, yet they supply it with arms, just as the Arab reactionary states provide Iraq with funds and arms. Zionism and imperialism want to get rid of the Iranian revolution; this is why they encourage it with the supply of arms so that it continues the war.

The reactionary Arab states want to get rid of Iraq because Iraq is a progressive country. They encourage it with these supplies of money and arms. Naturally, what is termed the Gulf War and this revolutionary Iranian Islamic revival have spread fear in these Mickey Mouse states of the Arab world. They then sought help from the United States without any other consideration. This war has created a justification for the United States, NATO, and other Western countries to be in the Gulf and to have additional influence on each of these states—indeed, more than ever before.

Due to this fear of the Iranian revolution, the frightened states sought the help of Egypt. They did so because it possesses a sizable population in the region and because the United States opposes the Iranian revolution, with Egypt being either a U.S. colony or under U.S. influence. Egypt will respond to this cry for help. In fact, the traitorous regime in Egypt has benefited from this war. It has been recognized diplomatically by the Arab states because of their fear. It is as though this war has rendered a service to the treasonous regime in Egypt, and to the United States and its allies, by permitting them a presence in the Gulf. But it has harmed the Arab revolutionary alliance between Iraq, Syria, the Jamahiriyah, Algeria, and so on.

Therefore, as an opposition force concerned about this war, we may try to do something about it.

The other urgent political issue that has further aggravated the situation is Egypt, the biggest Arab country, the headquarters of the Arab League, and the leader of Arab struggle in confronting Zionism and imperialism. Suddenly it is cowering and recognizing the enemy, hoisting the Israeli flag over its capital, and normalizing relations with it. More serious than this is, first, the Egyptian-Israeli economic opening that led to the opening of the Suez Canal to the enemy, shortening its transportation route and supplying it with oil. Egypt is now supplying oil and iron to the Israeli enemy. Numbers are available in this regard. There is also land, air, and maritime transport.

All this gave more breathing space to the enemy. Egypt is supporting the Zionist enemy so that it can develop, invigorate, breath, and grow further. It has provided it with security on the southern front so that it can concentrate on its northern front. Indeed, since then, instead of the peace process that Al-Sadat and other rulers of Egypt lie about, the process of war and annihilation has begun against the Palestinian, Lebanese, and Syrian peoples. Israeli raids have reached Algeria, and we are still expecting Israeli attacks on any Arab country, whether in North Africa, the Arabian Peninsula, or any other place.

The second thing is—sorry, I cannot focus on this subject. It seems that I have been given a blank piece of paper.

The second thing is that Egypt has been used as a bridgehead to Arab countries for Zionism. Israel rode Egypt like a camel and moved into Arab countries. A camel that has Arab features and the name of Egypt seeks to enter and you open the gate for it, but its rider is a Zionist. It has gone to all the Arab countries. To recognize Egypt now is to half recognize the Zionist enemy. Egyptian aircraft go to the occupied land and to the Arab countries with which it has relations. Egyptian media propagate Zionism. All these actors, producers, writers, directors, and publishing and cultural centers propagate Zionism and erase anything that incites struggle against it; these go and move freely about in Arab countries. The singer we hear on the radio stations of Arab countries sings to Al-Sadat and Israeli parties. The sports teams play in the occupied land, not in Arab countries. The writers who go to Arab countries propagate Zionism.

The cancer has spread in the homeland, and it comes from Egypt. The two most serious things are: the infiltration of Zionism into Arab countries through Egypt, and the support provided by Egypt to the entity that was once surrounded. In order for them to go from Elat to Haifa, they had to cross oceans and the continent. They had to cross Africa and the Mediterranean. Now from Elat they cross the Suez Canal to the Palestinian coast. Egyptian rulers offered them their ultimate dream.

What can one do? It is a real catastrophe. A great Arab country, the biggest one, has recognized the enemy. Not only has it recognized the enemy, but it is also propagandizing for the enemy, lending it power, and providing for it. Egypt went to all the African countries and urged them to reestablish their relations with the enemy. I, myself, asked the African presidents: Why are you resuming your relations with the Zionist enemy? They said that this was at Egypt's request.

Here is Egypt, an Arab state which was combating the enemy. Now it has recognized the enemy. How could I, being an African president, break off relations with the Israelis while you Arabs establish relations with them. It stands to reason [words indistinct] see the service it has rendered. What made Spain, which had never recognized the Zionist enemy before, now recognize it? Greece, too, now recognizes it. Greece, even under the monarchy, never thought to recognize the Zionist enemy, nor did Spain for that matter, in consideration for the feelings of the Arabs and the historical and territorial ties with them.

Now, who could convince them? I met with the Spanish prime minister, who told me: How could I not recognize the Israelis when Egypt does so? It is not logical. I could not be more Arab than the Arabs.

We were endeavoring to expel the Zionist entity from the United Nations. Now the request is to expel the Arabs, for they are considered to be savages, barbarians, underdeveloped, and gypsies. This is what we are called. This is what is being disseminated about you, the Arabs. [Words indistinct] should be expelled, all the Arabs. If you have wealth, they take it. Then they [words indistinct]. What are these barbarians and savages, they say. They should not be allowed into the United Nations. They would expel you from all the organizations. And what about UNESCO? What UNESCO? They said that the Arabs are not civilized or educated. Al-Sadat told them this. He said that the Arabs are barbarians, savages; they are not civilized or educated. We are the only ones, he told them, who are civilized [words indistinct].

The criterion for civilization has become whether or not you recognize Zionism. We have managed to convince the world to write to the United Nations and urge it to issue a resolution stipulating that Zionism is a form of racism. This is now being reconsidered. The General Assembly will meet one of these days and declare the abrogation of this resolution. This is being requested now. See this! The PLO has replaced Zionism and its terrorism. The request to expel the PLO is being voiced from everywhere. Even its bureau at the United Nations. The United States is now calling for its closure.

This is a peaceful process. See how the situation has become reversed in every respect. Egypt has caused a catastrophe for our cause. It presented a historic service to the enemy and caused the entire world to become confused and to reconsider all its stands. Those who traditionally had not recognized the Zionist enemy ended up by recognizing it for the sake of Egypt. Africa, which has had no relations with Israel for the last 20 years, has now resumed all ties. The United Nations, instead of expelling the Zionist enemy, will now expel the PLO. They will now expel the PLO. You can see the preparatory signs for this. The Palestinian bureaus, and the Libyan Peoples' Bureaus, are beginning to be expelled from the countries of the world. The situation is reversed, the latter now being considered terrorists. They are not joining in the process; they are not joining in the process determined by David's stable [Camp David].

Recognizing Zionism, surrender, renunciation, and concession. It is the Palestinian people who are paying the bill, in the occupied land and in the camps, and the Lebanese people in streets and towns everywhere. The Syrian people, as well as the rest of the Arab nation, pay the bill. We will all pay the price. See the atrocity of the catastrophe that has befallen us because of the recognition of a traitor, whose origin might be the Falasha, who is Al-Sadat.

Fine, if Al-Sadat, who was originally Falasha or Jewish, succeeded with subterfuge and tricks to become the president of an Arab country and to put it at the service of Zionism, what about the rest of them? I do not think that Husni is from the Falasha, at least his build does not seem to be Falasha. [laughter] What makes him carry on this catastrophe? How could we welcome him and stretch out our hand to him? In reality, it seems to me and to my analysis—which stems from a revolutionary stand, not a political one—I wish I were the president of a republic so that I could make decisions and have political and administrative prerogatives. But here authority is in the hands of the people, the people's congresses, the people's committees, the new Jamahiri system, and I possess neither the political nor the administrative initiative.

To me, the Egyptian regime should be combated and blockaded from all sides until it falls, and if harm comes to the Egyptian people because of this, then so be it. The Egyptian people will have to face the damage that comes to them as the result of the encirclement of Egypt so that they will turn against this regime. If the Egyptian people are harmed, then it is this Egyptian regime which was the one that brought harm to them. Anything that is Egyptian should be completely boycotted until the Egyptian people get fed up and carry out a revolution. Causing harm to the Egyptian people is intentionally beneficial at this stage. It can be compared to a surgical operation which is painful but cures the patient. So, in order to cure the Egyptian people and to save them and work for their future and that of the Arab nation, the Egyptian people should endure pain at this stage. Yes, boycott all that is Egyptian, because it is ugly and stinking from its recognition of Zionism.

This is to ensure that the Egyptian people will stage a revolution and attach blame to the Egyptian regime, which has inflicted harm on the Egyptian citizens. Workers, air traffic, the press, the movement of goods, visits, tourism, investments—all have been affected. The Egyptian regime, as I see it, has not rendered anything worthwhile to Egypt. It should be further strangled. Worse than this is the fact that following its re-recognition by the Arab states, it has done nothing for the Arab nation in return such as leaving stable David or stopping Israel's atrocities. Immediately after its recognition by the Arab states, Israeli massacres in Gaza began. Look at them. I thank God for exposing them. The Arabs left Amman and recognized the Egyptian regime. After that, the massacres in Gaza began. The people of Gaza are footing the bill.

As for the Jamahiriyah, it should have been said at the people's congresses that this country is separated from us by a desert, and that is that. In other words, we should pretend that Egypt does not exist. Egypt should also pretend that Libya does not exist. All right. He will hear nothing from me, and I will hear nothing from him. We will not seek help from him, and he will not seek help from us. This situation will continue until God settles the issue.

I have no problem with Egypt. Egypt has a problem with the Arab nation. As for Libya and Egypt, we have no problem between us. Between us there is a lifeless desert; we have no mutual interests. What is Egypt? Egypt is the Nile valley, and this valley is far away from the desert. We assume that Egypt does not exist. I have no need for Egypt. I have no embassy and no aircraft in Egypt. I make no visits to Egypt. I have no workers in Egypt. I have nothing in Egypt. I can pretend that Egypt does not exist at all.

This is the correct attitude to adopt. It should stay this way until judgment day. This is a more honorable position to take than to re-establish any kind of relations with this regime while it is drowning in treason from the top of its head to the tip of its toes. This regime has caused us the present historical tragedy we are experiencing. We have paid the price for this tragegy with our sons, our homes, and our future. This is the price for Egypt's action. Bombs falling on our heads everywhere—in Libya, Lebanon, Syria, and Tunisia. What is the reason for this? The reason is this tragedy. To this day Egypt is still continuing to support the enemy against us.

What right have the Arab governments to re-establish relations with Egypt? We, as a recognized Arab opposition force, affirm that these governments, which we oppose, should be brought to trial. They should stand trial and tell the people what Egypt has contributed to make them recognize it. They should tell the people; they should convince you. They should convince you of the reasons that made them recognize the Egyptian regime. Maybe there are positive things of which we are not aware.

Maybe there is a plan under which Egypt is fighting the enemy and liberating Palestine. Maybe Egypt will abrogate the stable David accords next year, 1988, or the year after. Let them convince you. Okay. What is to be achieved in return for this recognition? What will Egypt give in return for its recognition? Following the Arabs' re-establishment of relations with Egypt, what will Egypt give in return to the Arab cause? Will it fight Iran? This is not the cause.

Among the subjects listed on the agenda is the international conference on the Middle East. This is another bomb. All these things are bombs exploding in our midst in order to scatter us—the Sahara, the Gulf war, the recognition of Egypt, the international conference, etc. All these are bombs being thrown into the Arab assembly in order to scatter the Arabs in every direction. Among these bombs is the international conference. Countries such as Libya and Syria have different views on the international conference. I am against it 100 percent, while Syria is for it 100 percent. This is a calamity. Prior to the idea of holding an international conference, there were no differences between us. Now there are differences, for example, on this conference. Is this not a calamity? It has scattered us.

The international conference, as the Israelis and the Americans have declared—and I would like to state that the U.S. and the Zionist attitude will be the one which will triumph at the United Nations or at the international conference or anywhere else, because there is no counterattitude that can check imperialism and Zionism. [sentence as heard]

If the Soviet Union is against Zionism and imperialism and is checking them, then my own experience tells me that it can realize something in its own interest. In other words, the Soviet Union can check the action of the United States vis-a-vis the Soviet Union itself or the socialist camp, but the Soviet Union is incapable of checking U.S. action against Libya or Afghanistan or Angola or Ethiopia, or Palestine, or Lebanon. It is quite evident that it cannot, although it is possible for the Soviet Union to deter the United States from attacking it.

Now, the latest thing is that we see the Soviet Union defending this because the United States was about to attack Poland and enter it. The Soviet Union, with difficulty, just managed to salvage the situation. The opinion that will triumph at the international conference will be the opinion of the United States and the Israelis.

What have the United States and the Israelis said? They have said that the international conference is an international umbrella, which will justify direct bilateral negotiations and bless any settlement to be agreed between any two parties. [audience shouts: "Palestine is Arab" and "No to the capitulationist solutions"] Yes, I agree. As soon as the international conference is convened, King Husayn and the Israelis will meet—the two parties, as the Israelis have said. This is the umbrella of the international conference. The Jordanian and the Israeli delegations will meet. If they agree on anything, then the international conference will bless it, not oppose it.

In actual fact, the Zionist enemy will be recognized at this two-sided meeting, thus forming another stable David, as was the case with Egypt. In other words, they will take another step similar to that which was taken between Egypt and the Israelis. They want to do the same thing that Egypt and the Israelis did. They want to do the same between Jordan and the Israelis, between Lebanon and the Israelis, and between Syria and the Israelis. Then the issue will come to an end. This is a very serious point.

It is similar to the Amman conference. As soon as they met, they restored relations with Egypt. As soon as the international conference convenes, the Israelis will be recognized by Jordan and by the Lebanese—I mean the Al-Jumayyil government, the government of the separatists, which will speak on behalf of all Lebanese. They will exchange ambassadors, and there will be an embassy in East Beirut and a Lebanese embassy in Jerusalem, not even in Tel Aviv. There will be a Jordanian embassy, too, and there will be an Israeli embassy in Amman.

A true copy of what happened between Egypt and the Israelis; this is what will take place at this international conference. This is the story of the international conference. How can Syria refuse to recognize the Israelis. This would be a calamity for Syria. It would be isolated. The Golan would remain occupied. There will be Israeli embassies in Amman, Beirut, and Egypt. This is the international conference.

The Palestinian resistance, the PLO, and the Palestinian people are not recognized at this international conference. It is forbidden to have a Palestinian delegation. They are conspiring to bring a traitor, bearing U.S. nationality, a Palestinian having British nationality, and a Palestinian having Israeli nationality, to say that they speak on behalf of the Palestinians. They want to have another traitor within the delegation—a Jordanian or a Lebanese. Imagine! To whom does the issue belong? It belongs to the Palestinians. If the Palestinians do not have their own delegation and if their delegation is not the largest or the strongest, then what is the benefit of an international conference?

Why do they speak about the occupation of the West Bank, Jordan, and the Golan Heights? Because of Palestine. It appears that the basic issue is Palestine. But they have deliberately overlooked it. They said: We do not recognize any representation of the Palestinians. To whom does this belong? It is the question of the Palestinian people. In other words, in evil there is a choice. Despite the fact that it is evil and treasonous, a conspiracy and a calamity, we wish that there were a Palestinian delegation representing the Palestinian resistance to say yes or no. If this happens, then all right. We have disagreed with the PLO, but it is all right by us. We have disagreed with Syria, but it is all right. Let them go to the international conference. The conference will end with Jordan, Lebanon, and Egypt recognizing the Israelis. Those who are against the conference are against the peace process. All right, send your aircraft to attack them.

It appears for this purpose that the question of the international conference has been placed on your draft agenda. But the idea and the goal is how to save the Arab nation through the realization of Arab unity. There is no thought given to anything except the unity of the Arab nation. You should not think about anything else except the unity of the Arab nation. You should not think about Arab solidarity and neighborliness, etc.

We should strive for neighborliness between Iran and Iraq and between Turkey and Syria, for example. As for the one Arab homeland and the one Arab people, there should be no neighborliness, as we have unity. Either we are united or we suffer a calamity. This unity—it is written here: [Al-Qadhdhafi indicates the draft agenda] The Arab union as a formula.

We can propose a plan for the establishment of an Arab union in order to salvage what can be salvaged. The monarchical regimes will remain as they are. The republican regimes will remain as they are. And the Jamahiriyah will remain as it is. The sultanates will remain as they are, and the shaykhdoms will remain as they are. Even the place where donkeys are tethered [Al-Qadhdhafi's reference to Oman] will remain as it is. [laughter] No one will change them.

But all of them should meet to set up a chairmanship council. The chairmanship of this council will be in rotation. I do not care if there is a donkey at the head of an Arab state. He will assume the chairmanship of this council. I do not care. Please unite us even under the chairmanship of a donkey. [laughter] We used to make it a condition that Arab unity should be revolutionary unity. All right; we have conceded for the sake of unity. We said: Let the kings, the sultans, the shaykhs, the presidents for life or half their life or a quarter of their life remain as they are. [laughter]

But let us make a chairmanship council of these rulers; let us make an executive council of the Arab prime ministers; let us make a foreign ministerial council of the Arab foreign ministers, an industrial council of the Arab industry ministers, an educational council of the education ministers, and a health council of the health ministers, etc. The chairmanship is by rotation. Let us say that the foreign minister of Qatar, when his turn comes, becomes the foreign minister of all the Arabs. We have given them an opportunity to preside over all the Arabs. The head [as heard] of Bahrain will, when his turn comes, become the head of the chairmanship council of all the Arabs.

They said that they do not want Arab unity because it entails an abdication—who will be the Shukri al-Quwwatli and who will be the Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir [Al-Qadhdhafi reference to the United Arab Republic of 1958 when Egypt and Syria were united and Abd al-Nasir became the head of state while the then President of Syria had to give up his post in favor of Al-Nasir]. The riddle has been solved. There will be no Shukri al-Quwwatlis and no Jamal 'Abd al-Nasirs. You will all become 'Abd al-Nasirs; all of you will become heads. You will be heads in rotation. This is in addition to the fact that you will remain heads of your own country.

This will not abolish the revolution. If there is a possibility for a revolution to be staged, then it will be staged. There will be no veto against a revolution taking place in this or that country. It will take place. If the people want to change the monarchical regime in a country to a presidential system, then they will do so. If the people want to change a presidential system into a Jamahiriyah regime, then they will do so.

If the workers are exploited in any Arab country, then they can stage a revolution. If the peasants are ruled by the feudalists and are being exploited, then they can stage a revolution. Students can stage a revolution. Soldiers can do so as well. These are interactions which we have left to the country itself. Regardless of such interaction in any country—today it may be a monarchy and tomorrow a republic and the day after that it may become a Jamahiriyah—it will remain a member of this Arab union. We do not care about the identity or how it changes. What concerns us is that it should remain a member of this union.

In addition, this will not prevent the establishment of true integration unity. This and that Arab country may unite and set up one state. Iraq may unite with Syria and set up one state. Excellent! This would be within this union. Tunisia and Algeria may become one state. Excellent! They would be within this union. Egypt and Sudan may establish one state, or 100 quarters. [laughter; Al-Qadhdhafi says the words "or 100 quarters" in Egyptian dialect]

The important thing—whether they are 1 or 100—is that they are members of this union. This is the political framework for the unity of the Arabs. We have given this unity an economic content. It is not a political cover. It is an economic and material content concerning food and the establishments dealing with wheat, agriculture, gas, oil, energy, and water. For each we have opened a volume; we have made a volume for each proposal. We have proposed a political cover and, inside it, this content.

If they refuse even this form, then what is left for us? We have only violence before us, forced to the point that some of you must go underground and start blowing up the ground under the feet of rulers and kings. This does not mean that we desire violence, but necessity pushes us to this, for if we do not kill, they will kill us. [Words indistinct] we want this Arab opposition to be shaken and to be aware of its responsibility. However, enjoying the fact that you are an opposition is something that sometimes serves the regimes. Let us now consider the Egyptian opposition.

It is sufficient that someone like Khaled Muhyi al-Din cannot come to Libya. He is too frightened by the regime to come to Libya, whereas the regime goes with all impudence to the occupied territories, to Palestine, and he cannot come to Libya. That is it. This one cannot confront the regime. If he is too frightened to come to Libya, then is it possible for him to confront the regime? I do not think so. This is not a revolutionary or serious standpoint at all. The Egyptians should come to Libya openly in front of the regime. If the latter protests, then one should say that I protest against you: Why do you go to Tel Aviv? Why do you go to the Israelis and shake hands with them? I am going to Arabs, my neighbors and brothers, and I shake hands with them. If the Egyptian opponent cannot say these words, then how can he oppose the regime? I do not believe this; this is not opposition.

On the contrary, this seems to be deception, deception to show that the regime is democratic and has an opposition. If this regime is liberal and democratic, then it must act like a liberal regime and anyone can put forward his candidacy for the presidency of the Republic. What does it mean that Husni Mubarak elected himself last time, this time, next time, and the times after that?

Any Egyptian should have the right to put himself up as a candidate. Did they not say: Liberalism and plurality of the parties? This is plurality of the parties. This means that after 4 years—how long is the presidential term in Egypt, 6 or 4 years? Six. After 6 years, the presidential term comes to an end, and everyone then puts forward his candidacy. This president does not have the right to put himself forward as a candidate another time after having done so twice. This means that Husni Mubarak does not have the right to put himself forward as a candidate. However, he will do so and he will succeed in advance, before the elections are even held: 99 percent, and 9 out of 10.

What is this farce? Is the Egyptian opposition not educated, not aware? Does it not understand? Has it not seen that Egypt constitutes a danger for our Arab nation? Do you not know that when the Israelis go to the northern front, they will come back to Egypt and divide it into a Coptic state and an Islamic state and take Sinai for the second time? They will take the Nile and cultivate the Sinai and the Negev so that they make 24 million Jews emigrate and come to this region.

The Israelis will become the greatest concentration in the Middle East, more than the Arabs. They will become a state larger in population than Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and the rest of the Arab states, and it is possible that it would [word indistinct] Egypt or be equal to it. There are 24 million Jews who are ready to emigrate when they occupy Egypt a second time and take the Nile from it. The battle now is how to take the Jordan River, the Litani, Al-'As, and Yarmuk rivers. This is the battle in the north, controlling the Arab local water resources. This is sufficient for 12 million Jews. After that, they will go back to the Negev, the Sinai, the Nile, and the division of Egypt until they (?annex) it and make it into two states.

Who is waiting for this and obstructing everything so that this additional disaster takes place? Is it the Egyptian regime? Is the Egyptian opposition not aware of this? Have they not studied this? How can this be? Have they been brainwashed? I do not know. How can one politician who is aware not know this danger? It is publicly known that the Israelis work for the division of Egypt into two states, as a minimum, into one Coptic state and one Islamic state, as well as the division of Lebanon, Syria, and the rest of the Arab states.

Arabs must be American Indians, Kurds, and gypsies. This is the U.S. and Zionist decision, as well as that of all the West. They have decided that this race, which is called Arab, must come to an end because we are savages and uncivilized. They say things like this: Arabs hate civilization, hate agriculture, hate peace, destroy churches, destroy Jesus and Mary, and destroy Christianity. They teach this to their children. But of course there are Arab Christians among us. It is impossible for the West to understand that there are Arab Christians who worship Jesus or Mary.

No, these are Arabs and they must all be eliminated. The American mentality is orientated continuously toward elimination, the elimination of race, because it was established on the basis of elimination. It, the United States, was established only after the elimination of a nation of American Indians. They distributed blankets to them containing the smallpox virus. Imagine, a mind reaching this point. They took blankets which they filled with the smallpox virus and distributed them to the American Indians who then died out.

They discovered that cancer would spread if they cut down a forest. An American Indian doctor wrote to me and said: Imagine, the United States has been cutting down a forest in which an American Indian group is living in order to spread cancer. The United States was established on the basis of genocide. Therefore, this is its international policy: genocide. It is now focusing on the mass annihilation of the Arab race in order to pave the way for Zionist expansion, which is one of the states in the Middle East. [sentence as heard]

Do not believe this. It is Al-Qadhdhafi who is telling you this. Forget this nonsense. What is all this talk about genocide? The United States is a civilized country. Wait and see. [Passage indistinct] This was proven by scientists and doctors. The United States took this virus, played around with genealogy, experimented with prisoners, released them, and they got out and spread it. In order to cover up this enormous crime, the United States said that this virus came from Zaire, from African countries, and from African monkeys. It has come from American monkeys, not African monkeys.

Look at how they spread rats in Egypt: 12 million rats. They left this country with a disaster. It is true that this might sound funny, but it is a fact. If you saw the hellish U.S. machinery, then you would say that this is hell and not human. You would say this after you have seen their decisions, heard the confessions of their spies, the secret issues they work on, their maneuvers and [word indistinct]. The plan was to destroy agriculture in Egypt so that the Egyptians would have to live on U.S. wheat. Indeed, statistics show that 12 million rats were brought into Egypt after the phase of opening took place. I refer you to the reports of experts—you will see the disaster that has befallen Egypt. Egypt was completely destroyed, and now Egypt begs the United States for wheat.

The United States fights [words indistinct] fights with cockroaches, fists, or atomic bombs. It does everything. It kills. It deliberately attempted to kill me; it used aircraft, the most advanced airplanes. Squadron after squadron attacked the house. People still say that the United States is civilized, that it is not crazy, and that it does not intend to kill people. The situation is clear. How can they send planes to attack someone asleep with his family? It would have been better if the United States had carried out a coup, if it had landed on the coast, started a war, and captured me as a war criminal. Where is the room in which he is sitting? Attack it with planes. Where is the office in which he works? Where is the tent he stays in? What is this? I am in my country. I am not in the United States; I have not occupied a portion of it in such a way that they would attack me.

This is the lesson. The lesson is that the United States is crazy. It is an enemy, one established on the basis of genocide. It will not stop until it has annihilated this race, the Arab race. The Arab race is better annihilated [words indistinct]. This is shameful and a disgrace. We have become like dirt to the world. By God, it would be better if we were finished. I hope that they pelt us with atomic bombs. May we provoke the United States into annihilating us with the destructive means it possesses. I would prefer it if we were annihilated. That is it; they will say that this was a vile nation and one that is finished, a nation that is incapable of living and is instead finished. Or, they will say that this was a nation that was defined but is now finished. As for our remaining this way, what is our worth?

What is our value? We are not solving the problem in southern Sudan, or that of Aozou, or that of the Polisario, or that of the Zionist enemy against whom we have done nothing, or that of the United States.

The United States displays a clear enmity toward the Arab nation. Hatred. We swore to them by all things sacred that we do not hate, that we live peacefully. They said no, you hate, you do not want to live peacefully. Imagine this! How? Did you see our fleets heading for you, or our nuclear submarines? Did we send you microbes? We are at home, cultivating, building, trying to cure ourselves by ourselves, and trying to progress from underdevelopment to progress [words indistinct].

They expelled Libyan students who were studying atomic energy for peaceful purposes and who were studying aviation. They said that Libya will not study space or atomic energy. These are studied by the United States, its allies, and its agents. This means [word indistinct]. All right, you know space; it appears that it doesn't belong to God, but rather to the United States. You, Libyans, study space? Who allows that? We said: True, we only took it from the United States. At the same time, there is an Arab opposition that is greeting the rulers: Hello, your excellency the ruler. What opposition is this? This is a comedy. [laughter, applause]

I would like you to meet and to concentrate your efforts during the coming hours and the time ahead of you, preferably without speeches. This is because everything is clear, and what I have said is sufficient. Anyone who speaks would say something similar. So, this is clear. What can we do? You can form committees, and each committee will be in charge of one of the articles.

With regard to this, if anyone is willing to add another article, the Lebanese problem is not mentioned here, and Lebanon is a true problem. We thus devoted one of the articles to [word indistinct] Lebanon among the basic political issues. In fact, it should have been issue No 1, along with the camps. Lebanon is torn apart. Then you form committees—this one in charge of Lebanon, that one in charge of the Gulf war, that one responsible for Egypt, another responsible for the Sahara problem, that one in charge of the international conference [on the Middle East], and so on.

The main scheme is how to liberate Palestine. We decided upon a practical procedure that the opposition will work with. It should publish it in its newspapers, in its literature, and demonstrate with it, meet with it, speak with it, oppose the government with it, and meet with the government on its basis—the basis of this program—until the government feels that the masses and the people it governs have a different opinion than its own. Either the government falls, or it alters its policy according to the wishes of the people it governs. Then you win the masses. As for anyone who flirts with the government, do you think that he will win the man in the street, the masses? He will not.

The existing governments do not acquire the respect of citizens. When you respect a government, you lose the respect of the citizen. You will no longer be respected. If you win the respect of the citizens, you should not respect these regimes.

In following the procedure I mentioned for the division into committees, for setting up a program, agreeing on it, and beginning the struggle in conformity with this program, we will win the masses. However, the masses are currently lacking in the opposition, for they do not believe that this opposition represents them. [Words indistinct] that this opposition may attach importance to the government and lengthen the rule of governments that harm the Arab citizen. Is there anyone among us who does not like a ruler because he is named Hassan or Husayn, or so and so, or Fahd. It is only because of his [not further identified] policy that his program causes harm to the Arab nation and its future. His policy engenders bombs, catastrophes, and even microbes over our heads. This is neither a temptation, nor a matter of mood, nor a picnic; it is a necessity.

This leads to the Arab opposition having a united plan for the same people, the same homeland, and against the same enemy. The national parties, some of which were established for regional reasons, must no longer continue in that way, for the issue now in question is a pan-Arab one. For example, we have the independence party in Morocco; you were demanding independence for Morocco. How could your demand now be independence for Morocco? Morocco is an independent country. Now that is something new. What would your party do? It must put Arab unity in the place of independence.

All right, the previous stage was independence from France; you have now become independent from France. Now the goal must be Arab unity. You must cross out independence and write down Arab unity. If you do not want to pursue Arab unity, then pursue the unity of the Arab Maghreb. This would be a step toward Arab unity.

Take the national party, for example. I do not know which country—the Sudan or any other nation. Now, there is only the Arab nation. You must cross this out. When we refer to the Tunisian Constitutional Party, what constitution are we talking about? Are you demanding a constitution for Tunisia? We have a constitution, and that is that. There is no need to demand a constitution.

The Egyptian Al-Wafd Party sent a delegation to London [word indistinct] so that Egypt could become independent. Someone told them to send a delegation to London to bring the British Army to Egypt. We are not sending a delegation for you to establish the Al-Wafd Party again.

Al-Wafd was originally organized because during the English times, they wanted to send a delegation to London. They then called on the Al-Wafd Party. Is sending an Egyptian delegation to London now a demand? What is this Al-Wafd? Now there should be Arab unity, liberation, and socialism. A social and pan-Arab demand. They are intermingled.

Regrettably, we trail other nations in our pan-Arab unity. The world has entered a stage of social revolution, while we have not yet achieved pan-Arab unity. We thus have two burdens: the burden of social revolution and that of pan-Arab unity. The social revolution is in fact acting against pan-Arab unity. A revolutionary Arab country is now closer to Iran than to a neighboring reactionary Arab country. A scientific socialist Arab country is closer to Moscow than to a reactionary neighboring Arab country.

This is all due to the social revolution that the world has entered. For our part, we have entered it without having attained Arab national unity. Other nations achieved their unity in the age of nationalities, in the 19th century. They then entered the age of social revolution as united nations, the internal struggle between forces of exploitation, between the exploiters and the exploited. [sentence as heard] As for us, one Arab is the enemy of another: A U.S. Arab and an Arab who is opposed to America. My enemy is the United States, and this Arab is a friend of the United States. Pan-Arab unity was delayed until the world entered the stage of social revolution, and this is another catastrophe.

I [word indistinct] in this program and confrontation, and I paid the price. If this open Arab opposition does not serve the purpose, then we will have to move toward a covert Arab opposition, and violence will commence. I am satisfied, for I have offered everything that could save even Arab rulers. The unity plan is the one that I have told you about. To preserve whatever can be saved, we will develop it in the future. If they say no, all right. This will mean that you have pushed us to violence against you—and to covert action. Go to the United States. We are not afraid of the United States. What is the United States? [Words indistinct] Japan and attacked it with atomic bombs, and now it is begging Japan. Japan is stronger that the United States economically, even though it occupies an island that is exposed to earthquakes every year. The United States is not capable of finishing matters. We are not afraid of that country.

It attacked me with its most advanced aircraft, yet I live to this day, despite the United States. [applause]

When the pilots returned, they said that there is no possible way that Al-Qadhdhafi could still be alive. They said that he is definitely dead. Then they began embracing each other. The U.S. chief of staff was cutting farts; they were happy. [laughter, applause] They said that this is it; our laser-guided bombs are 100-percent guaranteed. We hit his office, his tent, and the house. We are certain he was there when we attacked. They returned satisfied.

However, in reality the United States cannot finish [words indistinct] shortening and prolonging the lives of people and nations. It was not able to prolong the life of Numayri, Al-Sadat, King Idris, the shah of Iran, Lon Nol, Nguyen Cao Ky, Haile Selassie, and the list of all agents ending with Marcos and Imelda. It could not prolong their lives or help them to stay in power; they fell despite the United States. So what is this fear of the United States? The first thing is to free yourselves from the fear of the United States. You leave Libya free of the fear of the United States. [applause]

This is my perception. It is merely an opinion. I have invited you to meet as a request for help from any active Arab force that could save the Arab nation. The Palestinian resistance is present in Arab opposition, although it has no government. The Palestinian resistance is the fire over which we must pour fuel, for this resistance kindles the spirit of revolution in the Arab homeland. The spirit of resistance and defiance is very, very essential. The spirit of revolution would not exist without them at this stage. Without the Palestinian resistance, there will be no armed struggle, no violence, no fighting, or no fear of the Arab citizen. Arab rulers fear the Palestinian resistance more than [words indistinct]. Why is this? Because it has the rifle, because it is revolutionary, because it fights, and because it dies. Some might say that we are an Arab opposition opposed to our regime. What does the Palestinian resistance have to do with it? No, no, the Palestinian resistance leads Arab opposition. It is essential, especially since we are talking about Arab unity and Arab territory, whether occupied by an Israeli, an agent of the United States, or anyone else. Consequently, Arab opposition should offer support to the Palestinian resistance, place it at the head, and offer it everything. This is not for the sake of the black eyes of the Palestinian resistance, but because this movement is essential to your cause.

It is the Palestinian resistance, not the Arab opposition, that fires up the emotions of Arab youth. If there is still anything alive in the Arab homeland, it is due to the Palestinian resistance, not the cold Arab opposition. Arab opposition cannot light anything; it is cold. The Polisario energizes the region more than the Moroccan parties do. Moroccan parties have a long history and we appreciate their struggle role, but they do not excite the emotions of the young people. Instead their emotions are stirred by the Polisario [words indistinct]. Other Arab opposition groups do not stir the young people either; it is the Palestinian resistance that does this. If we subtract the Palestinian resistance from the Arab reality, then we will be left with ashes and extinguished embers. The Palestinian resistance is an ember that we must continue blowing on so that the other pieces of coal will light and become embers. Therefore, you revere, respect, support, and offer it everything. This is your pan-Arab duty.

You must leave here united [words indistinct] in the Arab people's congress, pan-Arab leadership, and anything else as a united pan-Arab opposition. You must meet regularly at the Arab people's congress, pan-Arab leadership, or anything else that would bring you together. You must meet regularly and revise the program you are carrying out. The struggle continues, and we move forward.

Meets With Arab Journalists

LD172302 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1920 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli, 17 Dec (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution has met with a number of Arab journalists who covered the pan-Arab conference of Arab opposition parties.

Jabir Meets With Palestinian Officials

LD172228 Tripoli JANA in English 1430 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Kanun [December] 17, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Col Abu Bakir Yunis Jabir, commander-in-chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, has received Mr Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], sec. gen. of the Palestine National Liberation Movement (Fatah), and Abu 'Ali Bassis [name as received].

Receives Lebanese Delegation

LD172234 Tripoli JANA in English 1432 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Kanun [December] 17, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Col Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, commander-in-chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, has received Mr Mustafa Sa'd, chairman of the Nasirite People's Organization in Lebanon, and the delegation of the Lebanese National Force comprising Samir Sabbagh, Munir Sa'id, Tahir 'Induri, Adnan Sultani, Muhammad Nawal, 'Atif al-Diruqi and Ahmad al-Halabi.

Niger Minister Makes Statement, Departs

LD172343 Tripoli JANA in English 1813 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Kanun [December] 17, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—"Sani Bako" the foreign and co-operation minister in Niger and his accompanying delegation left Tripoli this afternoon at the end of a visit to Great Jamahiriyah.

In a statement to JANA, Sani Bako expressed pleasure for meeting the leader of the revolution and has pointed to the letter he delivered to the leader from the president of the Supreme Council of Niger Colonel "Ali Saibou" concerning the two countries bilateral relations.

He added: "This visit has also given me the opportunity to meet the secretary of the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison, the chairman and members of the Libyan Arab-Niger brotherhood society where bilateral relations were studied and the means to develop them."

He said: "Niger and Great Jamahiriyah are neighbours bound by historic and cultural links and values the most important of which is Islam. We must act upon strengthening those relations in a way that serves the aspirations of both brotherly peoples and those of Africa".

Concluding his statement, he asserted that his visit to Great Jamahiriyah has produced positive results.

Bardai Radio Cited on Internal Combat in Chad

LD161459 Tripoli JANA in English 1045 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Text] Bardai, Al-Kanun [December] 16, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—In a statement released by Bardai radio, it says that the troops of the First Army Frolinat are now deployed inside Chad specifically in the central and central east of this country ever since the departure of the Transitional National Unity government from Ndjamena on 7/6/1982. [date as received]

The above radio adds that these troops have been waging their struggle carrying out daring military operations inside Chad against U.S.-French imperialism and its puppet Habre whom it has imposed on the struggling Chadian people.

Bardai radio has expressed its resentment at hearing the news circulated by Western radios quoting the group ruling Ndjamena at present to say that violent fights took place near Goz Beida between Islamic troops and government's FANT troops in which 43 were killed from the former and 3 from the latter.

Bardai radio has stressed to the national and world public opinion that the fights referred to by Western radios took place in actual fact, but they were against the First Army—Frolinat—which control these areas and not against any Islamic force whether Libyan or non-Libyan as alleged by Western radios.

Bardai radio adds that it is not surprising at all that the troops of the First Army are conducting such operations like what they have been used to against FANT, taking into account that they have been joined by the brotherly sons of Kira who constituted the combatant force in Habre's regime. Now they have left him owing to his wrong tribalistic practices against other tribes living in Chad.

Bardai radio has [word indistinct] its press release by stressing clearly that the fight against the butcher of Ndjamena will continue until the revolutionary troops score a victory. Such troops are waging their struggle to achieve freedom, peace, security, and stability in Chad.

Mauritania

Taya Receives Tunisian Foreign Minister

AB171628 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1430 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] Colonel Maaouya Ould Sid' Ahmed Taya, CMSN chairman and head of state, this morning received in audience the Tunisian foreign minister, who arrived in Nouakchott yesterday evening.

At the end of the audience, Mr Mahmoud Mestiri said that he had delivered to the head of state a message from Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. He also informed the head of state about the recent constitutional reforms that have taken place in Tunisia. He added that they talked about the situation in North Africa, particularly the efforts being made by our two countries for the realization of the Great Arab Maghreb. We also discussed bilateral relations and the possibility of strengthening them, he said. Finally, Mr Mahmoud Mestiri noted that the head of state had asked him to convey a message to President Ben Ali.

Burkinabe, Ghanian Envoys Deliver Messages

LD172218 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Text] The CMSN chairman and head of state has received Alfred Nombre, the Burkinabe minister of water resources, and special envoy of Captain Blaise Compaore, chairman of the Popular Front, head of state, and head of government. The message conveyed deals with bilateral relations and the consolidation of regional cooperation.

The CMSN chairman and head of state also received (Haimu), Ghana's ambassador to our country, resident in Algeria, who conveyed to the head of state a special message from Flight Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings, Ghana's president, which dealt with the bolstering of bilateral relations.

Sudan

Prime Minister on Egyptian Military Ties, Zakat

EA172143 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1945 GMT 16 Dec 87

[News conference by Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi at Khartoum Airport on 16 December prior to his departure for Jordan—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Ahmad 'Abdallah Hanqah] Ahmad 'Abdallah Hanqah, from the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-ANBA'. Mr Prime Minister, in reference to the visit of Egyptian Prime Minister Sidqi to Khartoum, reports have said that this visit was conducted in a diplomatic tone, while Sudan is adopting a language of war [words indistinct]. The question is: Now that you are on the verge of visiting Jordan and Libya, what is Sudan's latest stand on the joint defense agreement, if we can call it that, or on the agreement included in the brotherhood charter on Egypt's military position? This is considering that Sudan is the main strategic point in the north of [word indistinct]. That is the first question. Second, does the visit have any other significance, such as activating the military protocol concluded with Libya during the transitional period? Thank you.

[Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi] The fact is that we are in a situation where I would not like to discuss the formalities of agreements and protocols. I have said that Sudan is in a position in which it believes that it faces a particular issue. What it would like from friends, allies, and neighbors is first, an admission that Sudan is exposed to aggression and, second, an indication of what these sides can do to oppose this aggression. We cannot determine for anyone what they should do. We have made our position clear, and I have said that all these sides should decide as they wish. This is aggression directed against Sudan, and no one is under any illusion that it is not foreign in nature. Some people mistakenly believed that these movements were internal and had nothing to do with foreigners. Now no one can deny the situation. Friendly foreign states will declare their positions and confirm that there is proof of foreign intervention.

Therefore, we first want our friends and neighbors to declare that what we say is true. Second, and naturally, we want them to state that they are prepared. A number of them have actually told us that they are prepared to respond to any request from Sudan concerning its self-defense. This is required from all. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified correspondent] This question concerns the cancellation of the September laws on the legislation of zakat [religious tax] and taxes. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi] [Passage omitted] The law of zakat and taxes is one of the September laws that has been canceled. The transitional government abolished the old zakat law [word indistinct] and introduced a new law. This government has passed a tax statute that separates zakat from taxes. The September laws, on the other hand, combined zakat and taxes. Now they are separate. Zakat is one thing, while taxes are another. Zakat is only for Muslims, while taxes are for citizens, both Muslims and non-Muslims. This is something that has actually occurred and something that has actually been dropped from the September laws. [passage omitted]

Anyanya-II Claims 340 'Outlaws' Killed

EA180649 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] [Passage indistinct] The supreme command of the Anyanya-II movement said that it has launched large-scale, concentrated attacks on the outlaw camps. This led to the destruction of seven of these camps, three in southern Upper Nile Province and four in the western Nuer region.

Ethiopian helicopters were observed attempting to carry away the wounded. However, our forces employed anti-aircraft guns against them. Our forces also captured quantities of arms, while 340 of the traitorous Garang forces were killed in the Ayod area. The Armed Forces brought the situation under control.

The statement noted that Anyanya-II, in conjunction with the Armed Forces, launched an attack on the western region. This assault led to the destruction of four camps belonging to Garang's forces. Anyanya-II stressed its commitment to national unity and its determination to liquidate the agent forces. It also asked the government to accelerate the holding of the constitutional conference [passage indistinct].

Tunisia

MTI's Mourrou Calls for General Amnesty

LD172249 Paris International Service in French
1245 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] There will be no death sentence for one of the leaders of the Tunisian Islamic Tendency Movement [MTI]: President Ben Ali has commuted the sentence to life imprisonment at hard labor. Moreover, he was the only person able to do this, for the State Security Court had already confirmed the sentence and an appeal was rejected several days ago. This is certainly an important political gesture that will doubtless profoundly alter relations between the ruling power and the Islamic opposition in Tunisia; at least, this is what is apparent from the reaction of MTI Secretary General Abdelfettah Mourrou. Correspondent Faridah 'Ayari contacted him this morning:

[Begin Mourrou recording] I believe that the presidential pardon that substituted life imprisonment for the death penalty passed on MTI Vice President 'Ali Laaridh is a positive act. This means that the new team headed by Zine El Abidine Ben Ali is keeping the promise it made on 7 November. I take this opportunity to note my great relief at the decision the president of the Republic has made. President Ben Ali has denounced and condemned the political trials and extraordinary courts such as the State Security Court. It should be noted that the MTI leaders were judged by an extraordinary court which is in the process of being abolished. Consequently, we expect these verdicts to be annulled by an amnesty. We also expect that those in prison, as well as those in exile, will be able to rejoin as quickly as possible the Tunisian people, who welcome this great change in political life. [end recording]

So the MTI secretary general, who is somewhere in Europe, is awaiting a general amnesty to return to his country.

Inter-Gulf Affairs

Iranian Boats Attack Norwegian, Saudi Tankers

NC181042 Paris AFP in English 1030 GMT 18 Dec 87

[Text] Manama, Dec 18 (AFP)—An Iranian gunboat opened fire on the Norwegian supertanker "Happy Kari" in the Strait of Hormuz at midday Friday, causing a fire aboard the vessel, regional maritime sources said.

The extent of the damage caused to the 290,762-ton "Happy Kari" was not immediately known and there were no immediate reports of casualties.

The "Happy Kari" sent a distress signal soon after the midday attack, the sources added.

In the early hours of Friday, Iranian gunboats opened fire on the 280,578-ton Saudi Arabian supertanker "Saudi Splendour," causing slight damage but no casualties, maritime sources said.

The "Saudi Splendour," which was attacked some 22 nautical miles (42 kilometers) off the port of Dubayy, was able to continue its voyage under its own power and moor off the port of Dubayy in the southern Gulf.

The vessel sustained a hole in the port side and a fire started by the attack was quickly extinguished, the sources added.

In an earlier report shipping sources said the ship's captain had described the attackers as "unidentified speedboats."

The "Saudi Splendour" was the first Saudi tanker to be attacked by Iranian gunboats crewed by Revolutionary Guards militiamen in two months and the ninth vessel to be hit by Iranian forces in 12 days, in the latest of series of effective raids against international shipping in the Gulf.

Some of these attacks have caused devastating fires aboard the vessels, leading shipping experts to speculate on the type of weapons Iran has been using in its recent raids.

CBS Helicopter Fired Upon

JN171821 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1745 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] Today Iranian speedboats attacked a cargo ship off the coast of the Emirate of Sharjah. Fire broke out aboard the ship, and the crew attempted to extinguish it. However, after the fire was put out, the Iranian gunboats renewed their attack by firing missiles at the vessel, as well as at a helicopter a CBS news team was using to film the incident. The CBS team believes that its helicopter rather than the cargo ship was the target of the second Iranian attack.

Bahrain

'Text' of Amir's National Day Address

JN171359 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0630 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Excerpts] Manama, 16 Dec (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, has said Bahrain believes that implementing Resolution 598 is the most ideal peaceful solution to the Iraq-Iran war. This corresponds with international opinion, which has experienced the dimensions of this conflict and has demonstrated a collective will to work to end the devastating war.

His highness called on Iran to follow fraternal Iraq's acceptance of the option of an honorable and just solution, in accordance with the teachings of the Islamic religion, with the requirements of international norms and treaties, and in the interests of the two parties and the region.

His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah stated this today in his speech marking the 16th anniversary of the national day of Bahrain. [passage omitted] The following is the text of his speech:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. O honorable citizens, today our dear homeland celebrates one of its most sublime anniversaries. Today is the glorious national day that constitutes a landmark in the modern history of Bahrain. On this day, we pause and look forward to a brighter future, one based on the determination and genuine nobility of our people. Our people stress their ability to continuously make sacrifices commensurate with their deep-rooted values and traditions.

We are feeling and experiencing the outcome of the internal achievements attained over the past year. These cover all aspects of our lives. This calls for confidence in the socioeconomic development plan that our wise government adopted. It did this with a spirit of national responsibility and a deep sense of responsibility for different sectors, to pave the way for an honorable life, security, and stability. Despite the difficult international economic circumstances, our developmental march managed to continue normally, with balanced averages of growth. This had a positive effect on our national economy. Greetings to all of the national and sincere hands that planned and succeeded, that worked and produced fruits, and that set a living example of honest sacrifice for the loftiness and progress of the homeland.

O honorable citizens, on the international level, Bahrain's relations with other nations and peoples are characterized by values and principles that exceed its geographic area. The most important of its relations is our fateful, national affiliation with the Gulf community. These states constitute the regional strategic depth whose course was set by the GCC, within the framework of a common viewpoint and joint feelings for the importance of coordination and integration. This is done in a way that ensures prosperity and stability for the peoples of the GCC. It is a cultural necessity and achievement that embodies the collective will in the fields of political, economic, security, and military cooperation, as well as for economic growth. It also stresses affiliation with the Arab fate as a fact and as a goal.

Based on this affiliation, Bahrain bitterly reiterates its position on the Iraq-Iran war, which has now exhausted the resources of the two countries for 8 years. Its evils are also jeopardizing other regional states that are not a party to this conflict. This dispute has also created gaps in the structure of Gulf security and has involved foreign parties. This in turn created regional tension and required speedy action to prevent this serious war from spreading over the waters of the Gulf. While Bahrain calls on Iran to follow the example of fraternal Iraq and accept this just and honorable solution—in accordance with the teachings of the true Islamic religion, in keeping with the requirements of international norms and treaties, and for the interests of the two parties—Bahrain also believes that implementating UN Security Council Resolution No 598 is the most ideal diplomatic method in which to solve the dispute. This is because international opinion—which has been experiencing the dimensions of this dispute—has demonstrated a collective will to work toward ending this devastating war.

Bahrain's comprehensive affiliation is with the Arab nation, because it represents a pan-Arab, strategic depth confirmed by a common fate and common objectives, and the depth of historical ties. This affiliation is reinforced through solidarity and joint Arab action, which we consider to be principled bases. The extraordinary Amman summit expressed these principles in the manner we had both hoped for and anticipated, in order to tackle the issues of our nation within the framework of joint Arab responsibility. This responsibility stems from a genuine Arab conscience and a desire to crystallize a sincerely resolute, collective position in support of our fateful issues. The most important of these is the question of the Palestinian people and their right to self-determination and to establish their state on their national soil, in a way that ensures the loftiness of the Arab nation and its glory among nations.

Bahrain has friendly and equal relations with various countries on the international level. These ties are based on joint interests and mutual respect. With these relations, Bahrain looks forward to bilateral cooperation, positive collective participation in the prosperity of the peoples, and the attainment of international security and stability. That is how Bahrain acquired the respect and appreciation of the international community.

While we enjoy this glorious national day that marks our national anniversary, this anniversary also sharpens our will and strengthens our determination to give two things to this day: an additional meaning and a new reason to multiply efforts and strengthen production. It is like a good tree, one whose roots are firm and whose branches reach into heaven. It brings forth its fruit at all times by the command of its Lord. [Koranic verse]

Kuwait

Defense Minister Views Egyptian Military Ties

LD171425 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1255 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] Kuwait, 17 Dec (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh Salim al-Sabah stated here today that his talks with Field Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, Egyptian deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, covered "military cooperation between the two countries in the technical fields and the exchange of Egyptian expertise on air, land, and naval defense, as well as of training techniques."

In an interview with the press, he pointed out that the participation of Egyptian forces in minesweeping operations in Kuwaiti territorial waters was not among the principal topics discussed, although it falls within the framework of expertise that Kuwait will require in the future.

The defense minister commented that Kuwaiti naval forces have confidently succeeded in contending with the mines that Kuwaitis have discovered in their territorial waters. He added that the Kuwaiti naval forces have benefited from the expertise of the U.S. delegation which visited Kuwait for this purpose, following the growing number of fixed and floating mines in the waters of the Arab Gulf.

Shaykh Salim affirmed that Egypt will not hesitate to provide technical assistance to Kuwait to contend with sea mines, should Kuwait request it. He also declared that cooperation between the two sides is continuing in all military fields.

The defense minister denied that Kuwait has signed an arms deal with Egypt in which Cairo will supply Kuwait with a number of 'Ayn al-Sakr aircraft [an apparent reference to Sakr Eye portable antiaircraft missiles].

Shaykh Salim stated that Kuwait's ties with Egypt are not those of arms merchants who come here but are instead those of relations of brother with brother. He noted that the arms that Egypt will display at the exhibition to be held here on Saturday call for pride by all Arabs.

The defense minister commented that the Kuwaiti Air Force has succeeded in introducing a number of modifications in the U.S. F-4 fighter planes that Kuwait possesses. He stated that these alterations are known as the Kuwaiti modifications.

As for the establishment of a joint Arab military industry, Shaykh Salim stated that such an industry currently exists and that a number of Arab countries have contributed to the project, while some have not, due to financial reasons. He affirmed that the Arab countries will join hands to build a unified Arab military industry.

Saudi Arabia

'Source' Denies Military Talks Held in Cairo

LD181005 Riyadh SPA Arabic 2255 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] Riyadh, 17 Dec (SPA)—An authoritative military source has made a statement to SPA in which he said: The Lebanese magazine AL-SIYYAD, which cites undisclosed Arab sources, reported in its latest issue that a three-member Saudi military delegation held talks in Cairo with Egyptian military officials. These talks focused on a Saudi proposal to include the GCC defense ministers in the administrative board of the (?Arab) organization for war industries. The Saudi delegation expressed the readiness of the Kingdom to provide $100 million to contribute to procuring sophisticated military equipment for proposed joint Egyptian-Jordanian forces.

The source added: It is not unusual that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia should resume its cooperation with sisterly Egypt in military, cultural, industrial, agricultural, and other sectors that would serve the common interests of the two fraternal countries. As for what the journal reported on the talks the Saudi military delegation held, this is groundless. No Saudi military delegation has yet visited Cairo, nor have any talks on the issues reported by the magazine taken place.

Moroccan Minister Reviews Talks, Departs

LD172233 Rabat MAP in English 1200 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] Riyadh, Dec 17 (MAP)—Abdellatif Filali, Moroccan minister of foreign affairs and cooperation left here Wednesday after a few day visit to Saudi Arabia during which he led the Moroccan delegation to the 4th meeting of the joint Saudi-Moroccan committee for economic, cultural and technical cooperation.

The head of Moroccan diplomacy was received by Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Salman ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz head of the Riyadh district, and Petroleum and Mineral Resources Minister Hisham Nazir.

The meeting with minister of petroleum and mineral resources reviewed the outcome of OPEC's ministerial council meeting recently held in Vienna and cooperation between Saudi Arabia and Morocco in the field of industry.

Addressing a press conference here Tuesday, Filali said the joint Saudi-Moroccan commission has been contributing positively towards enhancement of bilateral relations and providing ample opportunities for exchange of views on political issues. The commission, he announced, has decided to establish a joint Saudi-Moroccan company for agricultural, commercial and economic investments.

Referring to his meeting with custodian of the two holy mosques, Filali said he had coveyed a verbal message to the Saudi monarch from King Hassan II on bilateral relations and the situation in the Arab Gulf.

[Words indistinct] King Fahd's efforts during the last Ramadan month to bring about reconciliation between Morocco and Algeria.

'Morocco and Algeria have agreed to form a committee to study pending problems' Filali said, adding this committee would start meeting as of Dec 17 incepting "a new era of constructive dialogue".

Filali underlined the importance of economic integration between Saudi Arabia and Morocco and referred to the existing normal relations between them.

Commenting on Moroccan-Tunisian relations, Filali said normal relations are existing between the two countries, adding that Tunisian officials are keen to strengthen Moroccan-Tunisian ties. On the other hand, he deplored the frequent aggression on Kuwait by Iran.

Finance Minister on Economy, Oil, Stock Market

PM160915 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 9 Dec 87 p 6

[Interview with Muhammad Aba al-Khayl, minister of finance and national economy, by Sami al-Muhanna in Riyadh; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] ['UKAZ] Your Excellency, we would like first to welcome you to 'UKAZ. In view of the custodian of the two holy mosques' interest in the prosperity budget, would you please detail the broad outlines of this year's budget?

[Aba al-Khayl] I hope the new budget will reflect the stable and firm growth in our economy and help to strengthen it. It is essential here to note that government spending is no longer the dominant factor in domestic development because the private sector's investment and activities create new investment in production as well as new work opportunities. [passage omitted]

['UKAZ] Your Excellency Muhammad Aba al-Khayl, huge sums are deposited in Saudi banks. In Your Excellency's view, what are the best ways of investing such sums?

[Aba al-Khayl] The investment of monies deposited in banks depends on businessmen asking for loans to invest in projects. Moneylending depends on the good planning and management of such projects, as banks tend to go for, and indeed compete over, well-studied projects. Banks have certain duties, namely, to help in assessing projects financially and in securing various methods of lending. Banks should also cooperate with borrowers in controlling costs during the implementation of projects.

Appropriate government authorities and chambers of commerce should provide studies for investment areas or certain economically feasible projects in the Kingdom, and present them to businessmen in order to facilitate investment. There is also another important matter, that is, contracts between banks and borrowers should be respected and obligations should be fulfilled so that there will be firm confidence. If the element of confidence is not there, all parties will hesitate to invest—a matter which requires a series of obligations on the part of banks, suppliers, contractors, or others.

['UKAZ] Some find it difficult to pay their bank debts. What is the present situation between banks and borrowers, and what is the official authorities' position regarding this matter?

[Aba al-Khayl] Firm measures have been taken to improve the situation in respect of bank debts. The situation has improved and everyone is cooperating. By everyone, I mean government departments, banks, and borrowers.

['UKAZ] How would you assess the Saudi economy now and in the future, and what is needed for the next stage, as it will focus on industry to diversify income resources?

[Aba al-Khayl] The next stage requires that investment in the private sector be intensified, as there is excellent scope for good established profit; funds are available. There is great scope, not only in industry but also in the agricultural field and the service sector, which has not yet been fully explored. The ministry previously conducted a study, a summary of which was published, indicating that retail trade, for instance, has major possibilities that have not yet been exploited. [passage omitted]

['UKAZ] The dollar has suffered a sharp drop in value. What is the impact on the oil market, which sets prices in this currency, and what is the impact of pricing oil in dollars on the income of oil-producing countries?

[Aba al-Khayl] The drop in the exchange rate of the dollar has led to a drop in the real value of oil. This situation is different from the situation that occured not so long ago when the dollar had a higher value. Consequently, this leads to a drop in the real income of the oil-producing countries. However, this drop varies from one state to another according to the sources of their revenue and the way their financial assets are handled.

['UKAZ] What impact did the new Wall Street disaster have on both the Arab world and our national economy?

[Aba al-Khayl] The drop in share prices in the world stock market caused losses for shareholders; this is clear. Many people all over the world must have been affected. However, losses vary: Those who buy and sell shares as speculators borrowing from banks will suffer a big loss. As for those who buy to invest, the situation changes once prices change. In the Saudi Government's case, the impact is very limited because the government does not invest its reserve in shares, except on a very limited scale, in order to avoid fluctuations.

I believe the disaster has taught the major states a lesson that will make them more eager to coordinate economic policies in order to stabilize markets. This was the most important message issued by stock markets in the major states. As for our Arab world, many individuals, banks, and companies who invest in foreign shares must have been affected. The extent of the impact depends on the investment method pursued by each quarter: when shares were bought, at what value, and in what currency. At any rate, most investors are waiting for the situation to improve.

['UKAZ] In Your Excellency's opinion, what are the reasons for the recent collapse in share prices in New York?

[Aba al-Khayl] The main reason was the unreasonable increase in share prices over the past year to the point that some shares in New York doubled 20 times over [as published]. In Tokyo they doubled about 80 times. Such prices were exaggerated. There was also an increase in interest rates before this collapse, which increased fears about inflation. Therefore, the prices of securities increased, thus attracting more investment at the expense of shares. Some financial establishments realized that and began to get rid of large numbers of shares in their possession. The differences that emerged among the main three major countries—the United States, Germany, and Japan—over coordinating their interest rate and exchange rate policies in fact increased fears.

There is also another technical reason, that is the use of computers in issuing purchase and sale orders on the stock exchange. These are some of the reasons known to everyone. They led to a state of confusion and fear as a result of which millions of shares were put offered for sale all at once, thus causing a drop in value. Because world financial centers are interlinked and influence each other, the infection spread to the other centers, even though there had been no real reason for such a drop.

United Arab Emirates

GCC's Bisharah Arrives in Abu Dhabi

JN151653 Manama WAKH in English 1605 GMT 15 Dec 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Dec 15 (GNA)—GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Bisharah arrived here today for a two-day visit as part of a Gulf tour. Bishara will discuss with UAE officials the agenda of the GCC summit meeting, starting in Riyadh on December 26. The summit will be preceded on Monday by a meeting of the foreign ministers.

Yemen Arab Republic

Salih Interviewed on Domestic, Arab Affairs

JN110736 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
0430 GMT 11 Dec 87

[Interview with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih by representatives of THE WASHINGTON POST, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS, and REUTER at the Presidential Palace in Al-Hudaydah on 10 December—read by announcer]

[Text] Question: What does oil production mean to your country?

Answer: We speak about our nation's internal security and stability. We urge the masses to maintain security and stability. Through security and stability we can turn the wheel of development forward and exploit our resources. We believe that without security and stability we will not be able to use these resources nor will companies from friendly countries invest in our country. On regional and international levels and within the objectives of our country's policy, we are one of the countries seeking world peace, whether in the Red Sea and the Arab Gulf, or in the entire world. We are one of the struggler countries demanding world peace, particularly if the Middle East issue, as represented by the Palestine question, is resolved and the Gulf war between two neighboring countries is terminated by peaceful means.

We in Yemen are very pleased with the meeting between the two superpowers—the United States and the Soviet Union—and the historic summit between Reagan and Gorbachev. This is a gain for mankind in general. If this meeting produces results in the areas of disarmament, the limitation and destruction of nuclear weapons, and the dismantling of intermediate range weapons, then these people will enter history through its widest doors. They will have a glorious history and they will be remembered by mankind in general.

Question: You attended the Amman summit which discussed Resolution No 598 on the Iraq-Iran war and also the rapprochement between Syria and Iraq. In your opinion, what progress has been made since that conference?

Answer: We consider the Amman extraordinary summit an important event in inter-Arab affairs. The conference emerged with a common Arab viewpoint before the international community. All friendly states, whether the United States, or Western Europe, or the socialist bloc countries, want to see a unified Arab position. Whether the issue was the Gulf war, the Arab world's central issue—the Palestine question—the Lebanese problem, or bilateral relations between the Arab countries, the summit emerged with a unified Arab viewpoint. We came out with a unified Arab viewpoint. We believe this will be appreciated by the friendly states that were asking us to adopt such a unified Arab stand.

Question: Do you believe that the settlement of differences between Syria and Iraq and the reconciliation between them will be permanent?

Answer: As far as I can see, they have resolved their differences. They are not so tense as in the past. The two fraternal countries are aware of and appreciate their responsibilities in the general interest of the two neighborly peoples in Iraq and Syria. We believe that it will be a permanent reconciliation, God willing, and that both sides are aware of the grave situation experienced by the peoples of the region.

Question: The United States has disappointed certain Arab states by not supplying them with weapons. What is your opinion on that, and what aid has Yemen received from the United States?

Answer: Every Arab country has its own independent policy. As far as we in Yemen are concerned, we have an established policy concerning the diversification of the weapons sources; we announced this policy a long time ago. We can fill our need for weapons from the United States, Western Europe, and the socialist bloc countries headed by the USSR. This is because we have good and distinguished relations with all of these countries.

Question: Can you comment on U.S. policy, and do you believe that the United States is doing its best to end the Gulf war?

Answer: We place our hopes on the international community in general headed by the permament member states of the UN Security Council. We in Yemen believe that the permament members of the Security council can play a role in ending the Gulf war and establishing lasting peace, whether in the Gulf region or in the Middle East.

Question: King Husayn will visit the USSR soon after the Reagan-Gorbachev meeting. Do you believe that the USSR and the PRC will fulfill their pledge to implement Resolution No 598?

Answer: We do not have any comment on this subject. However, as I explained, we place our hopes on the five members without going into detail. King Husayn will convey the Arab community's viewpoint on the Amman summit resolutions. The Amman summit was clear and its resolutions were clearly stated.

Question: You promised to use the oil revenues to increase the wellbeing and happiness of Yemeni society, particularly in encouraging agriculture. Is there any program to encourage Yemeni farmers to uproot the qat shrub [Yemenis chew the leaves of this shrub as a stimulant] and replace it with other crops?

Answer: We have clear strategic objectives in the field of agricultural development. First, we have a cooperative agricultural credit bank. This bank offers all types of facilities and loans on easy terms with low interest rates to farmers. The alternative to the qat idea is to offer such help and to establish marketing companies to encourage the Yemeni farmer to market his produce at attractive prices and to also enable the farmers to plant fruit trees and corn and to find a good market for them so they will be a good alternative to the qat shrub. Our plans in this field are proceeding successfully. In 1983, we imported bananas and oranges costing about $100 million. We decided to stop importing fruits and to encourage our farmers to grow such fruits. We also built dams and irrigation canals. This enabled us to achieve a surplus in fruits. We are now looking for outside markets for this surplus. We also have a surplus in vegetables.

Question: Since the revolution, the USSR and the United States have been competing over Yemen. Has this relationship achieved its purpose, and how do you view the development of relations with the two superpowers?

Answer: We in Yemen do not feel any embarrassment in the establishment of distinguished relations with the USSR and the United States. Both are superpowers and it is our duty to establish good relations with these countries. If there are certain advantages in our relations with the USSR, there are also advantages in our relations with the United States. The USSR supported the revolution right from the beginning. The United States has also carried out a considerable number of development projects since the beginning. So the United States also has advantages.

If you want, I can cite examples. The USSR supported the Armed Forces and the revolution and carried out strategic economic projects such as the cement plant in Baqil, the Port of Al-Hudaydah, and Al-Hudaydah-Ta'izz highway. These are some of the advantages of Yemeni-Soviet relations. The advantages of Yemeni-U.S. relations are the dirt road between Mocha and Sanaa, the Ta'izz water project, a Canadian [as heard] project, and a number of rural water projects. We hope that our cooperation with the United States will increase in the future.

Question: There is an understanding with Libya, as well as holding meetings. Where will these meetings lead?

Answer: Our meetings with Libya are good. They take place within the framework of the bonds which exist between us as two Muslim and Arab countries having solid historical and fraternal relations.

Question: Do you expect any help from Libya? Do you expect to have trading agreements with Libya? In other words, what material benefits do you expect from this relationship?

Answer: The basis of our relationship is not material. It is a pan-Arab, humanitarian, and ethical basis. Our relationship with the brother Libyans is that which exists among brothers. Relations are not necessarily based on material factors. We have good relations with the United States. These relations are not necessarily based on material considerations. We also have relations with the USSR, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, and many other states in the world.

Question: With respect to the south, there are historical and fraternal relations. However, there were at the same time some political difficulties. In other words, there were close relations on the official and private level. However, some political problems occured. How do you view future relations?

Answer: Regarding the southern part of the homeland, our relations are not regional or state relations. Our relations are those existing among the sons of the same people who have the same mother and father. Our problems in attempting to achieve unity are based on past events, of what we inherited from British colonialism, and the reactionary imamate regime in Yemen. Together, we are seeking to overcome these inherited problems.

Question: Will the result of these relations complicate relations with Saudi Arabia?

Answer: This is a domestic issue. These meetings do not pose a threat to any other Arab country. Saudi Arabia has good and unique relations with us and has good and distinctive relations with the southern part of the homeland too. For our part, we believe there are no problems. It would be better if you ask the other side.

Question: Oil prices dropped sharply recently. Do you believe the expectations of the Yemeni people will be met from the revenues of the small quantity of oil that will be exported, particularly following the drop in oil prices?

Answer: We still are at the beginning of the road. We do not believe that the revenues we will obtain from the export of this small quantity of oil will solve all our economic problems. Our people are a closely knit society. Services are excellent. The people are living under better conditions than in the past. Much has been achieved without oil. Oil will only help us in achieving what we have been struggling to attain. Yemen will continue to struggle and has never been a burden on anybody.

Question: We notice that relations with the United States are constantly developing. We have heard that you were invited to visit the United States. Do you intend to visit it in 1988?

Answer: An invitation has been issued. We will visit there at the appropriate time in the future.

Question: Are there any problems in your relations with Saudi Arabia, particularly as Saudi assistance and loans have been reduced. How do you assess Saudi-Yemeni relations?

Answer: From our part, we do not see any problems in Saudi-Yemeni relations. We believe that these relations are distinctive and close fraternal relations. This is the type of relation that should always exist between us as two neighboring and fraternal people who practice the same religion and have common interests. Saudi assistance has not been reduced. However, the remittances of the Yemeni expatriates have dropped in view of the Iraq-Iran war.

Question: You have built the country without burdening it with big foreign loans. Can you tell us about your philosphy on not seeking loans. What is your philosophy on obtaining foreign loans?

Answer: We oppose foreign loans, except when extremely essential, especially in the development field. We do not want to drown the country in loans by importing luxuries. We only seek loans in vital strategic development fields such as energy and major agricultural projects such as those in Wadi Murr, Wadi Jadid, Wadi Rima', and Wadi al-Jawf and the cement plant. We get loans from the World Bank, the IMF, and other international organizations. We do not obtain loans to drown our markets with unessential commodities. Even essential goods are imported in light of our revenues from expatriates' remittances and our simple exports.

These essential commodities consist of 14-15 items and they are imported in light of our revenues. We have decided to rationalize the national economy. The exchange rate of the dollar once reached 14-15 riyals. We banned a number of luxurious goods from entering our markets and we only permitted the importation of the 14-15 essential items. The exchange rate of the dollar then dropped from 14 to 9.5 riyals. This is a great success. The riyal is now in good condition as certified by the World Bank and several other international economic institutions and organizations.

Question: Since the revolution, you have succeeded in transforming Yemen from a tribal society into a unified, solid society. What policy have you followed and what do you intend to do in order to reinforce this success in the future?

Answer: We are one people. We do not have any divisive minority or communal manifestations. We are a homogenous, noble, Muslim people. There are no minorities, factions, or any type of divisions. There are no difficulties preventing the people from uniting within a single ideology, philosophy, or theory, so long as they have one faith and the same characteristics.

Our people are ruling themselves through their representatives in the present People's Assembly and the Consultative Council which will be elected. All the people now take part in national decisionmaking. There is no totalitarian authoritative rule. There is democratic rule. We believe that democracy is the only way out for us.

When we read history books, we find that we are an ancient, people. We have a national document—the National Charter. It is a philosophical document which represents the will of the masses. It does not belong to anyone individual or a group of individuals. We have about 27,000 people who participate in political decisionmaking which expresses their ambitions. The decision is approved by the existing institutions.

We have an experiment which perhaps differs a great deal from other people's experiences. It is not the single party theory, but a comprehensive theory that represents the ambitions of all the political forces regardless of their different inclinations. Under this theory, we approved the National Charter as a national document. We were able through this document to unify our people and close their ranks.

Question: Would you support 'Ali Nasir Muhammad to return to power anew after you have achieved a great deal for him so that he could live in the north?

Answer: 'Ali Nasir Muhammad is not a political refugee, but is in his own homeland whether he is in power or not, because we are one people.

USSR's Osadchuk Makes Statement, Departs

JN161539 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Text] Osadchuk, deputy chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations and head of the Soviet side to the joint Yemeni-Soviet committee for economic, trade, and technical cooperation, and his accompanying delegation departed Sanaa. They had participated in the second session of the committee that was held in Sanaa from 12 to 15 December.

In a statement to SABA', the Soviet official said that the joint Yemeni-Soviet committee for economic, trade, and technical cooperation discussed all issues pertaining to the existing cooperation between the two friendly countries. This included the expansion of the Sinn Bajil factory and the building of the Al-Khalid Dam, which will provide Sanaa with water. The committee also reviewd other issues of cooperation between the two friendly countries. Osadchuk pointed out that during the meeting, the two sides signed the minutes of the second session of the joint Yemeni-Soviet committee for economic, trade, and technical cooperation. These minutes are considered to be a practical program to be implemented by Soviet and Yemeni institutes, within the framework of cooperation between the two countries.

He also said that the upcoming session of the committee will be held in Moscow. He then praised the well-prepared and organized work of the committee. In concluding his statement, Osadchuk affirmed that the visit enabled the delegation to acquaint itself with the current progress in the YAR in all sectors. He pointed out that the Soviet delegation is departing the YAR determined to carry out the instructions of the Soviet Government and leadership. These aim at deepening and promoting cooperation and friendly relations between the two friendly countries. The Soviet delegation was seen off by Dr Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, deputy prime minister, minister of development, head of the Central Department for Planning, and member of the Standing Committee; the under secretary of the Ministry of Public Works; the deputy head of the Central Department for Planning; and Soviet Ambassador to Sanaa Veniamin Popov.

President Confers With PLO's Yasir 'Arafat

JN171631 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1233 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Dec (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. Yasir 'Arafat briefed the president on recent developments in the Gaza Strip and West Bank and on the comprehensive uprising by the occupied territories' masses against the Zionist occupation.

President Saddam Husayn greeted the Palestinian Arab people's steadfastness and lauded their brave uprising against the Zionist occupation. His excellency asserted Iraq's support—leadership and people—for its Palestinian brothers in their just and brave struggle under the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people, in the confrontation of the Zionist occupation.

The president informed Yasir 'Arafat of his excellency's decision that Iraq is ready to look after the families of the uprising's martyrs and to allocate a pension for them in expression of Iraq's pan-Arab commitment and its earnest fraternal sympathy with the masses of the Palestinian Arab people.

During the meeting, they reviewed developments in the Iranian aggression against Iraq. President Saddam Husayn asserted that the heroic Iraqi Armed Forces are highly prepared to crush any new aggression by the Tehran rulers, who are allied with both Zionism and enemies of the Arab nation. They also reviewed the Arab situation in the wake of the Amman summit, as well as its positive results to enhance Arab solidarity, support the Palestinian question, and back Iraq in its legitimate defense against the Iranian aggression. Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, attended the meeting.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Operations

Communique No 2,953

JN171731 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Communique No 2,953 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 17 December]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With the will of the brave faithful men, our valiant Armed Forces continued to inflict further losses on the renegade aggressors. The results of the activities of our forces for last night and today are as follows:

1. In the I Army Corps northern sector, nine scoundrels were killed and eight others were wounded, one vehicle was destroyed, and four others were damaged.

2. One enemy soldier was killed and two infantry positions were destroyed in the II Army Corps central sector.

3. Our units in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan opened fire on enemy units opposite them. They managed to achieve the following: 12 scoundrels killed, 1 tanker and 3 infantry positions destroyed, and 9 observation posts destroyed.

4. In the VII Army Corps sector, four enemy personnel were killed, one infantry position and one machinegun emplacement were destroyed, one vehicle was damaged, and one ammunition dump was blown up.

5. The criminal enemy shelled Khanaqin and Sayyid Sadiq towns with long-range artillery. The enemy shelling injured four civilians, including two children and one woman, and damaged a number of houses. Swift recovery to our wounded, God willing.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 17 December 1987

Iranian Attack on Tanker Noted

JN181222 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1158 GMT 18 Dec 87

[Text] London, 18 Dec (INA)—The British Lloyds Insurance Company announced a short while ago that a Norwegian oil tanker "Happy Kari" was the target of three missiles fired by Iranian speedboats while sailing in the eastern part of the Arabian Gulf today. In a cable to the INA London office, Lloyds reported that a fire erupted on the tanker after its starboard area was hit. Lloyds said the crew succeeded in immediately extinguishing the blaze.

Lloyds did not mention whether any casualties were reported among the crew, but it said the tanker was not carrying oil when it was hit. The Norwegian tanker is operated by the Lortes Closter [name as received] Company headquartered in Oslo, weighs 140,277 tonnes, and was built in 1974.

Lloyds said rescue boats rushed toward the tanker, but it seems that the vessel does not need any assistance thus far.

Molotov Cocktail Thrown at British Consulate

TA180723 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 18 Dec 87

[Text] Last night a Molotov cocktail was thrown into the yard of the British Consulate in the Al-Shaykh Jarrah neighborhood in East Jerusalem. The bottle ignited, but there were no injuries and no damage was caused.

More Disturbance in Territories, Jerusalem

Arab Wounded in Nabulus

TA171648 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] There were disturbances this afternoon in the Nabulus area. One of the inhabitants of the kasbah was wounded. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the disturbances began when residents hurled stones at an IDF patrol. The soldiers used tear gas, and when this failed they fired rubber bullets. One of the demonstrators was wounded and received first aid treatment. A curfew was imposed on the Balatah refugee camp near Nabulus following the disturbance at the site. There was a commercial strike in Janin. East Jerusalem has been quiet since midday.

A Border Police company was sent today to the Gaza Strip to bolster the security forces deployed there, and it will carry out police duties and maintain law and order. This followed an agreement between the chief of staff and the police chief. Police Inspector General Commissioner Kraus told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that border policemen are better trained in such missions than IDF soldiers. The inspector general also said that he has not yet received the conclusions of the investigation into the behavior of border policemen in Nabulus, but the interim report shows that they did not transgress regulations.

Molotov Cocktails Thrown

TA172107 Jerusalem Domestic service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] Two Molotov cocktails were thrown this evening at an Israeli bus which was traveling from Tel Aviv to the Jewish settlements in Samaria. There were no casualties. The bus was slightly damaged. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the incident took place near 'Anabta in Samaria.

Ambulance Attacked in Hebron

TA181035 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 18 Dec 87

[Text] A burning object was thrown at a military ambulance near the square by the police station in Hebron a short time ago. There were no injuries and no damage was caused. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the burning object entered the ambulance through the window, but a soldier who was in the ambulance threw it out. A crowd gathered around the ambulance. The two soldiers who were inside got out and fired into the air. An IDF patrol arrived at the site and dispersed the gathering.

It has been reported this morning that there was calm in all the cities and refugee camps of the Gaza Strip. Most inhabitants left for work, and shops have been opened.

Jerusalem Protest Against Sharon

TA181135 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 18 Dec 87

[Text] Several dozen youths demonstrated in East Jerusalem following prayers on the Temple Mount. They threw stones and chanted slogans denouncing Minister Ari'el Sharon. The police dispersed the demonstration with tear gas, and calm currently prevails in the area.

The security forces did not permit residents of the territories to attend prayers on the Temple Mount today. Therefore, the number of worshippers was approximately one-tenth the usual number for Friday. Our correspondent 'Adi Malul reports that approximately 5,000 people attended prayers. Large police and Border Police forces were posted around the Temple Mount.

2 Dead, 7 Wounded in Gaza

TA181413 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 18 Dec 87

[Text] Two people were killed and seven were injured in riots in the Gaza Strip. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that riots erupted in the Al-Burayj refugee camp south of Gaza and in the Al-Shaja'iyah quarter at around 1300, at the end of prayers in the mosques. The security forces opened fired at the rioters after they were pelted with stones, iron bars, and firebombs. The wounded were taken to the Al-Shifa' Hospital in Gaza. Disturbances broke out in front of the hospital. A frenzied mob began throwing stones at IDF patrols and prevented the Army from going into the hospital to check the number of wounded people and to take out the bodies of the dead.

At this time there are disturbances in other locations in the Gaza Strip as well. Tires are being set on fire and stones are being thrown at the Shabburah intersection in Rafah and the Jabalyah refugee camp.

Indictments Against 3 'Terrorists' in Nabulus

TA161847 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Text] A charge sheet was submitted to the Nabulus Military Court today against three inhabitants of Salfit near Ari'el. They are charged with having planted bombs twice on Dizengoff Street in Tel Aviv, a bomb at the Kefar Sirkin intersection near Petah Tiqva, and a fourth bomb on Herzl Street in Ramat Gan. The three fired a Kalashnikov and threw hand grenades at a bus near

Ari'el. They also planned to attack the passengers of another bus. The squad was captured after a bomb prepared by its members exploded in the hand of one of them in the student dormitories in Bi'r Zayt.

Week's Disturbances in Territories Summarized

TA180626 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 18 Dec 87

[Text] During the recent wave of violence in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, 13 people are known to have been killed and at least 60 others injured. Some reports put the number of injured at more than 100, with PLO officials abroad charging that more than 300 Palestinians have been hurt in clashes with Israeli soldiers.

According to the Voice of Israel's reporter, more than 200 people have been arrested for their part in the violent disturbances, including 15 people who are believed to be the ringleaders. Seven Israeli soldiers required medical treatment for injuries they received during the clashes.

Israeli military sources say they believe that there was a deliberate intention by the ringleaders of the disturbances to provoke and attack Israeli soldiers in the most violent way possible, and were prepared to ignore any attempt from the troops to quell the disturbances by limiting themselves to rubber bullets or tear gas and keep the violence going. Protesters hurled stones, fired metal ball bearings, and used clubs and metal railings against soldiers. On some occasions, according to military sources, knives and axes were used by demonstrators in attacks against soldiers.

Official View of Unrest 'Autistic Nonsense'

TA180848 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 18 Dec 87 p 20

[Editorial: "The Sleepwalkers"]

[Text] Self-deluding official interpretations of the bloody disorders that started in Gaza and spread to Judaea and Samaria during the past ten days should not be allowed to obscure their true lessons for Israel.

The "Arabs of Eretz Yisra'el" who reside in the occupied territories have served notice, clearer than anything before, that they will not reconcile themselves to permanent Israeli rule over their lives. They have proclaimed themselves Palestinians, with their own conception of "the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and their just requirements." This is the first unmistakable lesson from the disorders.

The official view of the disorders that they amounted to an ordinary outbreak of civil disobedience, sparked by the PLO terrorists, is autistic nonsense. It was not shifty terrorists who faced IDF soldiers in the streets and alleys of Gaza towns and refugee camps, but daring youngsters, the very age-group that everywhere leads a badly disaffected but unorganized mass. To refer to them contemptuously as shabbab, which is how they are termed in Arabic, only exposes the cultural gulf separating official Israel from its Palestinian subjects.

All the evidence in fact indicates that this time the PLO has done no more than hop, late in the day, on a bandwagon it did *not* [word in italics as published] start rolling.

This is all something new in the post-1967 history of the confrontation between Israel and the Palestinians. But then times have changed, and not least since 1977. During the past decade the dominant government doctrine, authored by the Likud, has been that the occupation is in effect permanent, and that the best the Palestinians can expect, even in conditions of peace, is a niggling autonomy under Israel's sovereign control.

Whether the Palestinians would accept a truly "full" autonomy—as a handful of Herut moderates would hope—as an alternative to a state of their own, is moot. But that they will not buy the Likud's proposed permanent Gastarbeiter status for themselves, and will in fact resist any effort to impose it, is beyond question.

The second lesson from the riots in the territories, however, is that Israeli power, awesome in regular military encounter, is subject to severe limitations when exercised against various forms of civil rebellion. That is not merely because Israeli troops will not, as a rule, behave like Russians in Afghanistan, or like Indians in Sri Lanka. It is in significant measure also because Israel's supporters abroad, upon which this nation remains utterly dependent, will not accept the type of violent "anti-terrorist" programme advocated by those with greater Eretz Yisra'el, not peace, on their minds.

Only sleepwalkers pretending to be statesmen can turn a blind eye and a deaf ear to these plain lessons.

Shamir Comments on Events in Territories

TA181019 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT 18 Dec 87

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir visited the Western Wall excavations in Jerusalem a short time ago and commented on the events in the territories. Our correspondent Shlomi Stein is on the phone, and will brief us about the prime minister's comments:

Prime Minister Shamir said that our neighbors and those who incite them should realize that violence, disturbances, and attacks on the IDF will achieve nothing except disasters and the loss of human lives. Shamir added that he is saddened by any human casualties, but at the same time we have made a tremendous effort to restore calm. He hopes that we will be able to calm things down over the next few days without causing additional casualties and deaths.

Concerning the proposal to demilitarize Gaza, Shamir said that we cannot solve any problem by dodging it, and were the IDF not in Gaza the PLO would take over there.

Referring to attacks on Israel by the international media, Shamir said that we have overcome similar cases in the past and will overcome this wave as well.

Regarding the issue of cooperation with the Alignment, Shamir said: I am satisfied with the full cooperation of the entire security establishment.

Denies Blaming Alignment

TA171629 Tel Aviv Educational Television in Hebrew 1500 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir denies having said the Alignment is responsible for the unrest in the territories.

The secretary of the Labor Party's Young Guard has urged Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to return to Israel at once so as not to leave the reins in the hands of Shamir and Sharon.

Weizman Interviewed on Policy in Territories

TA172004 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1805 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Interview with 'Ezer Weizman, minister without portfolio and currently acting foreign minister, by Eli'ezer Ya'ari—live in the studio]

[Text] [Ya'ari] Good evening to you, Minister Weizman. How grave is the situation now, from the point of view of Israel's image in the world, in view of the unrest in the territories?

[Weizman] The situation is grave since the expectations in the world for peaceful arrangements, for a dialogue rather than firing, are great. The disappointment is just as great as the expectations.

[Ya'ari] I would like to move over to the Arab aspect of things. Yesterday you met with the Egyptian ambassador in Israel and today you spoke with Mustafa Khalil. Do you feel any change in the Egyptian stance in the wake of developments in the territories?

[Weizman] I feel tension and pressure. I definitely spoke with Mustafa Khalil, who is not holding any key position now but is still influential, as well as with the Egyptian ambassador. Both expressed concern about the situation. Being familiar with the tones and music there, I believe one should lend a very attentive ear to what is happening in Egypt.

[Ya'ari] It would be interesting to know what you told them, how you answered them.

[Weizman] I explained to them, and hope they understood, that the current situation is a passing wave, although I believe that it involves a most complex human and political problem. I expressed my wish that both the Israeli and Arab sides manage to find the way to promote the process which we so successfully began in the 1970's.

[Ya'ari] This is a rather general question. If you were the defense minister today, how would you have behaved? What would you have done in the territories in order to end the riots which we have been witnessing for a week now?

[Weizman] I would have adopted a line of staying out of it all as much as possible.

[Ya'ari] What do you mean?

[Weizman] I would have, for instance, removed most of the forces from Gaza, leaving only those forces necessary to guard the Jews who live there, of course; maximum exit from the region, in other words. Let them do what they want. Let them burn, let them deliver speeches, let them close down shops, let them set all the tires in the world on fire. We should get out of there, cut contacts and stop the friction, on the one hand, and on the other, form contacts with the Egyptian and Jordanian authorities, as well as the superpowers, if possible, on how we can promote the political process. It is, after all, the absence of a political solution which results in the burning of tires.

[Ya'ari] Do you believe that this opinion, which Peres seems to share, may be acceptable to the government?

[Weizman] I believe it will ultimately be acceptable. In any case, I will try to have this opinion accepted. It is my assessment that when we raise the matter for a discussion it is very likely to be accepted.

West European Envoys Voice 'Concern' to Weizman

TA181147 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 18 Dec 87

[Text] This morning, the Danish, Belgian, and FRG ambassadors expressed the West European countries' concern over the events taking place in the territories to Minister 'Ezer Weizman. They demanded that Israel act to restore calm and avoid casualties.

Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that Minister Weizman described the events in the territories to the ambassadors and said that he believes we are nearing the end of this wave of disturbances.

Ambassador to Egypt Reports 'Somber' Atmosphere

TA180550 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 18 Dec 87

[Text] Israeli Ambassador to Egypt Moshe Sason yesterday reported to acting Foreign Minister 'Ezer Weizman on the somber atmosphere in Egypt in the wake of the events taking place in the territories over the last few days. The Israeli Embassy in Cairo is comparing Egypt's reaction to these events to its reaction after the Sabra and Shatila incidents.

Demonstration Reported at Embassy in Nicosia

TA171843 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] A demonstration was held in front of the Israeli Embassy in Nicosia, the capital of Cyprus. Stones were thrown at the windows of the embassy building, and some of them were smashed. A short while ago, we interviewed Ambassador Aharon Lopez:

[Begin recording] [Lopez] This morning, the press reported that a demonstration, or rather a march, to protest Israel's policy in the territories and the latest events there was going to be held. We figured that the demonstrators might actually reach the embassy grounds, so we informed the police and indeed, at around 1630, we heard the demonstrators approaching the building. There were approximately 250 people who waved banners condemning Israel and, naturally, expressing support for the PLO, the liberation of Palestine, and the like. They climbed the fence surrounding the embassy building, but the police force at the site was too small to take any preventive action. The demonstrators made a futile attempt to reach the flag, as it is hoisted on an upper floor. They threw some stones, but what mainly characterized the demonstration was the slanderous shouts and slogans they chanted.

Photojournalists invited by the demonstrators photographed the demonstrators waving the PLO flag and banners on the embassy fence.

[Announcer Qobi Barqay] Did they manage to penetrate the embassy grounds?

[Lopez] I would say that apart from climbing the fence, which separates the building from the road, they failed to enter the embassy.

[Barqay] Who were the demonstrators? What are their views?

[Lopez] To the best of my understanding, they were primarily Arabs residing in Cyprus.

[Barqay] Mr Aharon Lopez, what is happening near the embassy at this moment?

[Lopez] It is now the calm after the storm.

[Barqay] Thank you very much.

[Lopez] You are welcome.

[Barqay] Shalom.

[Lopez] Shalom and a happy Hanukkah. [end recording]

U.S. Reaction to Territories Policy Viewed

TA171605 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 Dec 87 p 9

[Commentary by Dan Margalit: "Moving Away From Negotiations"]

[Text] The U.S. reaction to events in the occupied territories no longer fits in the framework of routine statements made by professional diplomats. It seems that the flare-up in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza came as a surprise to the U.S. public. The television networks' reports must have tipped the scale and pushed the U.S. Administration to a position unfavorable to and unsympathetic toward Israel.

The novelty in the condemnations Richard Murphy and the State Department spokesperson issued is not so much their content as their emphasis and style. In Ronald Reagan's administration, law and order are fundamental and supreme values—a precondition for any development. Not so this time, however. The accusing finger points almost exclusively toward Israel as the violator of human rights in the occupied territories, denouncing it for employing grave suppressive measures. Yet there are virtually no condemnations of the stonethrowers and hardly any reprimand has been issued regarding the incitement from the Arab capitals and the terrorist organizations.

The gut reaction could easily be that this is just another case of deja vu, though this attitude would make the unusual U.S. reaction appear rather puzzling and inexplicable. Yet an examination of the circumstances surrounding the latest incidents in the territories indicates that a change is taking place in the U.S. assessment of the situation.

The most likely inference, therefore, is that the U.S. diplomats in Tel Aviv report that while the Shin Bet is growing weaker, losing its aura, and relinquishing its ability to intimidate the Palestinian population, Arab bravado, on the other hand, is on the rise. This is evident from the fact that the Arabs in Gaza go out into the streets en masse, and from the fact that the noose the Palestinians have placed around the neck of the security forces deployed in the Balatah refugee camp is tightening. It is no secret to the Americans that given this situation, Israel will not be able to rely as heavily on its deterrent capability and will be forced to lean more heavily on the military activity of such tough units as the Border Police. This, of course, will provide an endless source of dramatic reports in the U.S. media and will, no doubt, be followed by political difficulties.

Washington has learned something from the Vietnam, Iran, and South Africa affairs and now realizes that it cannot ignore the impact of reports on similar events on the American public. The Arabs know this as well.

U.S. experts in Israel assume that there is a direct connection between the demonstrations and the force used to quell them. Thus, although a wave of international criticism could moderate the Border Police's actions, in order to maintain law and order, the IDF will beef up its presence in the area. This will add more potential targets for the Palestinian man-in-the-street, who will be more tempted to attack the security forces. The cycle of violence will thus generate a new wave of violence, which in turn will also lead to a tough reaction by the Border Police. All of this will be to the sheer delight of the terrorist organizations and the extremist elements in the Arab world.

In his current visit to Washington, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin noted the intensity of the U.S. reaction and its hostile attitude toward Israel's operations in the territories. Interviewed on the Voice of Israel yesterday, Rabin tried to present a more balanced picture. Restoring order, he told his American hosts, is a precondition for any political negotiations. Yet Murphy's latest statement—and the fact that it came from him—attests to the fact that in the eyes of the U.S. Administration, the Israeli Government has no intention of taking the second road, that of negotiations.

Palestinian terrorism experienced a lull these past few months, and the main efforts were directed toward political contacts. Still, half the Israeli Cabinet prevented any negotiations. One cannot argue that quiet in the territories is a precondition for any negotiations, and yet once terrorism is controlled and relatively low-keyed, still respond with a resounding no to any proposal offered by Murphy as a prelude to an international conference.

The imbalance in the U.S. condemnation of Israel's conduct in the territories should not be seen as a comment on the methods employed by the IDF, but as Washington's demonstration of disappointment in the Israeli Cabinet's political stance. After all, even Murphy realizes that Rabin has no authority to suggest any substantive negotiations if he makes such negotiations conditional on the restoration of tranquility in the West Bank and Gaza. If some semblance of negotiations had been under way, Murphy would not have noticed so many incidents of human rights violations in Israel's actions, but would have seen instead that it is restoring law and order.

The background for the U.S. position is political and not so much the human aspect. It would therefore seem reasonable to assume that this position would not change even if the unrest is stemmed for a while.

Shamir Suggests Cairo Tripartite Peace Meeting

TA171829 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir today sent a message to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in which he proposes to convene a peace conference in Cairo with the participation of Israel and Jordan. Mr Shamir writes that the Amman summit improved Egypt's standing and the time has come for it to help further the peace process by such a tripartite meeting. Mr Shamir also wrote to the Egyptian president that in the Amman summit the Arab countries proved that Egypt chose the right path of peace.

Peres Arrives in Uruguay on Visit; Meets Leaders

For reports on Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' visit to Uruguay, including his talks with Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti and Foreign Minister Enrique Iglesias, see the Uruguay subdivision of the South America division of the 17 December Latin America DAILY REPORT.

CP Member Discusses Peace, Palestinians

AU152018 Sofia OTECHESTVEN FRONT in Bulgarian 14 Dec 87 p 6

[Interview with Salim Jubran, member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Israel and the Central Bureau of the Democratic Front For Peace and Equality, by Georgi Stefanov, OTECHESTVEN FRONT reporter, in Bulgaria "recently"]

[Text] [Stefanov] Comrade Jubran, how do you evaluate the chances of convening an international conference on peace in the Middle East?

[Jubran] World imperialism and reaction have made many efforts to complicate the Palestinian problem and bring it to a dead end. Recently, the Middle East crisis has been supplemented and exacerbated by new elements, such as the events in Lebanon and the Iran-Iraq war. The exacerbation of these three conflicts is a result of the hegemonic ambitions of the imperialist states and U.S. neoglobalist attempts. This is being clearly demonstrated by the U.S. attempts to deepen and internationalize the existing contradictions. The solutions of those three conflicts are closely related.

All those circumstances influence the possibility of convening an international conference on peace in the Middle East. The USSR's idea to organize such a forum encounters profound obstructionism on the part of the United States and the Israeli Government, which are striving to strip this idea of its real essence and turn it into a stage for conducting direct negotiations between Israel and separate Arab states.

All interested sides, including the PLO, as the only legal representative of the Palestinian people, must take part in this conference. It must take place under UN auspices, with the participation of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, and have the right to adopt mandatory decisions.

There are some differences in the Israeli Cabinet concerning the roads to solving the Middle East conflict. However, the members of the Cabinet are united by the categorical refusal of Shim'on Peres and Yitzhaq Shamir to allow the PLO to participate in the conference.

We, the Israeli Communists, think that political realism and the need to activate the process of peace in the region require a new approach: Israel must sit with the PLO at the negotiating table. There can be no peace in the Middle East without the establishment of a Palestinian state.

[Stefanov] What specific efforts are being made by the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality to normalize the situation in the region?

[Jubran] It is well known that the Communist Party of Israel is the main power behind the Democratic Front For Peace and Equality. However, hundreds of free individuals, such as mayors of settlements, lawyers, doctors, engineers, writers, poets, actors, and others are also members. The front was established 10 years ago. It is a movement which is struggling against the Israeli occupation of Arab lands and to solve the Middle East crisis justly. We are struggling against national discrimination against the Palestinian population under the Israeli Government, discrimination against women in the Israeli society, for equality for "Oriental Jews" (Jews who have immigrated to Israel from Oriental countries), and to defend the basic rights of working people.

Our actual struggle assumes the form of various protest actions: our parliamentarian activity, printed propaganda, strikes, and so forth. We demand from the Israeli Government that it recognize and negotiate with the PLO. We demand the unconditional and total withdrawal of Israeli troops from all occupied Arab territories and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

Today, under the Israeli Government, the Arab population is living under very difficult conditions. Unemployment among Arabs is three times higher than the average unemployment rate in the country. The Arab settlements are often subject to expropriation, and afterwards resettled by Jews. Arabs and Jews are equal before the law, but in reality, only on paper. In practice, Arabs are living as lower-category citizens, subjected to daily discrimination. Inequality exists in all spheres and it turns Arabs into foreigners in their own country.

Under these conditions we are striving to show society that the Israeli people cannot live happily while the Palestinian people are threatened by annihilation. It was not by accident that the 20th anniversary of the June 1967 War was marked by a joint Arab-Israeli committee. The fact that in 1968 an attempt was made on the life of Me'ir Vilner, general secretary of the Communist Party of Israel, was not accidental. The names of Tawfiq Tubi, Tawfiq Zayad, and Me'ir Vilner represent the patriotic, revolutionary principle, which is common to the Jewish and Palestinian peoples. They are Israeli Communists, respected by all Palestinians.

[Stefanov] What is your opinion on the Middle East policy of the People's Republic of Bulgaria and the other socialist countries?

[Jubran] The USSR, the People's Republic of Bulgaria, and other socialist countries are a loyal ally of the Arab peoples in their struggle for independent development and social progress. They have always rendered and are still rendering selfless assistance to the Palestinian people in their struggle to establish their own state.

The socialist countries' policy is aimed at establishing a lasting peace in the Middle East by justly solving the Palestinian problem, solving the Iran-Iraq conflict by political means, and normalizing the situation in Lebanon, while preserving the country's unity and territorial integrity.

It is because of the peace-loving efforts of the countries of the socialist community that the necessity of conducting determined actions to normalize the situation in the region acquires ever growing importance throughout the world.

Japanese Envoy Notes Improvement in Trade Ties

TA171407 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 17 Dec 87 p B4

[Report on interview with M. Koichi Tsutsumi, Japanese ambassador to Israel, by correspondent Willie Stern in Tokyo "early this week"]

[Text] The Japanese ambassador to Israel, M. Koichi Tsutsumi, warned Israeli businessmen not to expect dramatic results in trade with Japan. He pointed out that the Arab boycott and the difficulties in breaking into the Japanese market will continue to constitute a problem.

In a frank interview with MA'ARIV in Tokyo early in the week, Tsutsumi said that the Japanese Foreign Ministry decided 2 years ago to begin improving relations with Israel. He added that the exchange of trade delegations in early November does not represent a "breakthrough" but constitutes part of a significant improvement in relations.

He said that if Israeli businessmen want to enter the Japanese market, they must make serious and concentrated efforts. Although he admitted that the Arab boycott of Israel is a problem, he said it should not be used as a pretext to ignore Japan. "If a Japanese firm believes it has a chance for turning a profit, it will check out each deal."

He also hinted that the over the past 12 months, the Japanese Foreign Ministry has begun to recommend unofficially to Japanese firms to develop trade relations with Israel.

Tsutsumi said that if the direct approach to Japanese firms fails, more pragmatic measures should be used. He stressed the importance of developing personal contacts and mutual trust in trade with the unique Japanese market.

Tsutsumi praised the Israeli Embassy in Tokyo, which he said played a very active, even aggressive, role in the improvement of ties. According to Tsutsumi, 5 years ago a Japanese minister was not permitted to visit Israel. In the current fabric of relations, however, if a minister wants to travel to Israel at his own initiative, he can.

At present no Japanese commercial firm will do business with Israel directly, but Tsutsumi says that things can change. The NEC company, for example, refused in early December to sell a fingerprinting instrument to the Israel Police, but Tsutsumi says that this should not put Israel off.

"Develop personal relations and make use of them," he advised. Israelis can learn from the Swiss, the Swedes, and the Belgians, who succeeded in increasing their trade with Japan."

Tsutsumi admitted that Japan is not prepared to sign an economic accord with Israel, nor to publish a declaration denouncing the Arab boycott. According to the ambassador, Japanese vessels will continue to bypass Israeli ports. He added, however, that at present Israeli cities can set up twin-city agreements with Japanese towns.

He also said he does not expect the volume of trade by both sides to continue growing at a rate of 50 percent. "Almost the entire growth was based on diamond exports, but this cannot continue forever. Israelis must concentrate on hi-tech industrial goods," he said.

2 'Terrorists,' 1 SLA Soldier Killed in Clash

TA181142 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 18 Dec 87

[Text] Here is an update that has just arrived: In a shooting incident in southern Lebanon this morning, two terrorists and a South Lebanese Army [SLA] soldier were killed. Four Lebanese soldiers were wounded. Our correspondent Menahem Horowitz reports that at around 0900, an SLA force encountered a terrorist ambush north of Al-Khiyam in the eastern sector of the security zone. The terrorists opened fire at the Lebanese soldiers. Despite the large number of casualties the SLA has suffered recently, it returned the fire, killing two terrorists.

Reportage on Visit by Sudanese Prime Minister

Talks With Al-Rifa'i

JN171138 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] Amman—Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i met in his office this morning with Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, prime minister of fraternal Sudan. During the meeting, they reviewed the fraternal relations between the two sisterly countries and ways to promote and enhance them in all fields to serve the interests of both the Jordanian and Sudanese peoples. They also discussed current developments in the Arab and Islamic arenas, as well as ways to enhance Arab solidarity and to follow up the resolutions of the Amman summit, the conference of reconciliation and accord, vis-a-vis the challenges and dangers posed to the Arab nation.

Al-Rifa'i and Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi stressed the importance of supporting efforts to stop the Iraq-Iran war and to promote the peace process in the Middle East within the framework of an international peace conference. The meeting was attended by Dr Raja'i al-Mu'ashshir, minister of industry, trade, and supply; Dr Ibrahim 'Abd al-Jalil, Sudanese minister of trade, cooperation, and supply; General Fawzi al-Fadil, commander in chief of the Sudanese Armed Forces; the Jordanian ambassador in Khartoum; and the Sudanese ambassador in Amman.

Received by Prince Hasan

JN171634 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1450 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] Amman, 17 Dec (PETRA)—His Highness Crown Prince Hasan this morning received at the Royal Hashemite Court Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, the prime minister of the fraternal Republic of Sudan, in the presence of Zayd al-Rifa'i, prime minister, and Marwan al-Qasim, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court.

During the meeting, they exchanged views on fraternal bilateral relations and ways to develop them. They also discussed in detail efforts to bolster the achievements attained with regard to the unification of Arab ranks to confront the dangers and challenges facing the Arab nation aimed at the Arab regime and identity on the Asian and African levels.

Received by King Husayn

JN172023 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Excerpts] His Majesty King Husayn received at Al-Nadwah Palace this evening Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, the prime minister of the fraternal Republic of Sudan, in the presence of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i; Royal Hashemite Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim; and Staff Field Marshal al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Armed Forces. [passage omitted]

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan hosted a lunch banquet at the Al-Husayn Youth Center today in honor of Sudanese Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi. The banquet was attended by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i; Royal Hashemite Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim; Staff Field Marshal al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Armed Forces; and the ministers of industry and trade and health. It was also attended by the chief of staff, a number of senior civilian and military officials, the Jordanian ambassador in Khartoum, and the Sudanese ambassador in Amman. [passage omitted]

Staff Field Marshal al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, also received at his office at the General Command this morning General Fawzi Ahmad al-Fadil, commander in chief of the Sudanese Armed Forces. [passage omitted]

Following the reception ceremonies, Staff Field Marshal al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir met with Gen Fawzi Ahmad al-Fadil. During their talks, Jordanian-Sudanese cooperation and ways to enhance bilateral relations were discussed. The meeting was attended by Staff Lieutenant General Fathi Abu Talib, the chief of staff. Afterward, the Sudanese guest heard a military briefing on the birth and development of the Armed Forces and the missions and tasks assigned to them. The chief of staff, a number of his aides, and the commander of the Royal Jordanian Air Force also heard the briefing.

In a related development, Dr Raja'i al-Mu'ashshir, minister of supply, industry, and trade, discussed with Dr Ibrahim Hasan 'Abd al-Jalil, Sudanese minister of trade, cooperation, and supply, aspects of cooperation between the two fraternal states, especially in the field of bilateral trade in light of the agreements signed by the two states in this regard. They also discussed bilateral economic cooperation and ways to promote it. It was agreed that the discussion of this issue will be continued during the forthcoming meetings of the joint Jordanian-Sudanese committee, which are expected to be held at the beginning of next year.

Holds News Conference

JN180924 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 18 Dec 87 pp 1, 17

[By Tawfiq al-'Abid]

[Text] Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has said that his talks with senior Jordanian officials were constructive and successful and helped to give new momentum to the growing relations between the two fraternal countries.

In a news conference held at the Jordan Hotel yesterday evening, he added: We found complete response and understanding by His Majesty King Husayn, His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, and Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i toward all issues discussed. He pointed out that they had reviewed the problems of the Arab and Islamic regions, as well as peace concerns in the Middle East. He said that Jordanian-Sudanese relations are a symbol of Arab fraternity. He added: I proposed that Jordanian medical services not be confined to the town of Kas but be extended to other areas because the Sudanese Government is currently implementing a comprehensive rehabilitation program in various institutions.

Replying to a question by AL-DUSTUR, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi greeted the uprising of our steadfast kinfolk in the occupied homeland. He said: Throughout Palestine they have managed to confirm their vitality and steadfastness in affirmation of their legitimate national rights. He asserted that these rights will not be lost as long as the struggle continues.

Discussing the situation in Sudan, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi said that his country is facing unique circumstances and a very difficult test. He asserted: We are tackling three main problems. The first is an economic one since we inherited a wrecked, unproductive economy which is suffering from debts totaling $10.3 billion in addition to interest. The Sudanese economy also suffers from a lack of confidence in dealing with international funds and financial organizations, he added.

Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi said that in the past 2 years of democracy an annual economic growth rate of 7.5 percent was achieved and Sudan had restored its relations with international economic bodies, funds, and organizations on the basis of confidence and understanding. Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi added: Sudan is currently preparing a 4-year project for development recovery to rehabilitate the services, agricultural, and industrial institutions and also to build the infrastructure and secure the Sudanese citizens' basic needs.

Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi said: The second problem is the September 1983 laws which we inherited and which distorted the image of Islam and justice. We are committed to the cancellation of these laws not through revolution but through study. We are about to strike a balance between citizenship rights for everyone and the implementation of Islamic laws, taking into consideration minorities' circumstances to secure the justness of laws. He added: Thus far, only 20 percent of the September laws have been canceled but there is a program to cancel the remainder at once. We have a national committee comprising the various political forces which is preparing alternative laws that will be presented to the Constituent Assembly.

Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi also stated: The third problem is the sedition in the south. This sedition seeks to achieve military control of the region and impose political demands on the remainder of the country. Our Armed Forces, however, have managed to foil these objectives. He emphasized that the Sudanese Government will not allow the separatists to achieve their objectives. He said: The appropriate solution to the southern problem is a political one. We established the Ministry of Peace to discuss four problems; namely, religion and politics, Arab-African affiliation, the just participation in authority, and the just distribution of wealth.

Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi added that Sudan is working to resolve these problems through peaceful means and that peaceful solutions will be achieved through dialogue. He pointed to his meeting with Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam and to their agreement on the bases of a solution that has not yet been implemented. He said: We will take a step similar to any step taken by the other party. One of our hands is carrying a defensive rifle while the other is carrying an olive branch. He affirmed that Sudan has taken the appropriate measures to confront the aggression. We hope our usurped territory will be regained through peaceful means, he said, adding that Sudanese foreign policy is based on good neighborliness.

Concerning the continuation of the Iraq-Iran war, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi said: This war does not achieve an Arab or an Islamic interest. Our contacts and visits are particularly aimed at stopping this ongoing war. When we found no response from Iran, these contacts stopped. He added: Our stand on the continuation of war and on UN Security Council Resolution 598, which calls for an immediate cease-fire between neighbors Iraq and Iran, is clear. Sudan has always supported the unanimous resolutions on this war. He reiterated that due to the Iranian stand, Sudan's efforts to contain this war were unsuccessful.

Replying to a question, he stated that the enemies of our nation are plotting against Sudan in implementation of colonialist schemes. These schemes seek to separate North Africa from southern Africa. Sudan, in its current structure and entity, constitutes a link between the African north and south. Hence, conspiracies are aimed at Sudan to divide it. He said that the Israeli enemy is trying to infiltrate the Arab nation via southern Sudan and to reopen the doors closed to it in Africa.

Regarding mediations to resolve the southern problem, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi said there are numerous mediations between Sudan and Ethiopia on the one hand and between Sudan and the rebel movement on the other. We accepted such mediations because we seek to resolve the problem through peaceful means, he added. Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi noted that those who carried out these mediations were serious and they might have achieved something despite the deterioration of the situation in the south, he added. He asserted his country's adherence to the regaining of its rights, to the confrontation of aggression, and to the condemnation of foreign interference.

He said the current situation is similar to a border war. Long-range artillery fire was concentrated on the Sudanese villages of Kurmuk and Qaysan, which are 25 meters [as published] away from the Ethiopian border. He added that the continued shelling and the small number of Sudanese troops defending the two villages resulted in the Sudanese Army's withdrawal. However, our forces now seek to return to the villages and are preparing an offensive to recapture them, he said.

Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi also said that Sudan is confronting an aggression and is asking all its brothers, friends, and neighbors to help it face the aggression and enable our Armed Forces to regain our occupied territory in the south by supplying them with military equipment. He added that Israel supports the separatists in the south and, along with other parties, supplies them with funds, weapons, and training in order to infiltrate Africa and create a racist example which would be presented to the world to demonstrate that coexistence is impossible between Arabs and Africans so that Israel could find justification for its existence.

Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi revealed that Israel extends aid to a number of African countries, such as training cadres to defend the president of a republic and supplying some weapons such as planes. Regarding his scheduled visit to China, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi said Sudanese-Chinese relations are good. China is financing some development projects and supplying weapons to the Sudanese Army. He said that he will discuss the promotion of these relations.

At the beginning of the conference, Dr Musa al-Kilani, director of the Press and Publications Department, delivered a speech. He welcomed Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and thanked him for meeting with newsmen and journalists in Jordan. He said: All journalists greet your good efforts to promote Sudan and appreciate the inclusion of Jerusalem in your political program.

Departs; Al-Rifa'i Comments

JN181318 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 18 Dec 87

[Excerpts] Sudan's Prime Minsiter Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and his delegation left Amman this morning after a 3-day official visit to Jordan. He met with His Majesty King Husayn, His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, and Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i gave the following statement:

His Majesty King Husayn and His Highness Crown Prince Hasan have received Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, prime minsiter of the sisterly Republic of Sudan. Al-Sadiq al-Madhi explained to them the current Sudanese situation and problems, and its continuing efforts to tackle them. He also explained Sudan's policies and its stands on Arab and international issues.

His Majesty King Husayn asserted to Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi that Jordan views Sudan's security as part of the overall Arab security and that any attack on Sudan is an attack on the entire Arab nation. The Arabs are dutybound, added his majesty, to help Sudan preserve its territorial integrity and the safety and Arabism of its land so that it can face the dangers threatening it and the challenges imposed on it and help it to carry out its Arab duties and its message toward its nation. His majesty stressed that Jordan will continue to fulfill its duties toward sisterly Sudan and render every possible assistance within its resources.

Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi expressed his deep thanks and gratitude and those of the Sudanese people for the assistance offered by Jordan on the instructions of His Majesty King Husayn. Al-Rifa'i concluded his statement by saying that the Sudanese prime minister had congratulated His Majesty King Husayn on the success of the Arab summit, which was held in Amman, and the pioneering results it achieved. He affirmed the commitment of sisterly Sudan to all of the resolutions passed by the summit.

Al-Rifa'i Leaves for Damascus With Message

JN181242 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 18 Dec 87

[Text] At noon today Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i left Amman for Damascus on a brief visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. He will hand a letter from His Majesty King Husayn to his brother His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad in the context of continuing coordination and consultation between the sisterly countries on regional developments and the resolutions of the Amman summit—the summit of reconciliation and accord.

Israel Urged To Abandon 'Colonialist Concepts'

JN171101 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
17 Dec 87 pp 1,19

[Editorial: "A Policy That Contradicts the Evolution of History"]

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn asserted at the ceremony marking the graduation of the 28th class of the Command and Staff College that Israel's policies of brutality, repression, deportation, and collective punishment in the occupied territories cannot undermine the growing, deep-rooted will for freedom in the minds and hearts of the Palestinian Arab people under occupation.

The king's assertion, which comes at a time when Israel is using all methods of repression and coercion, serves as a strong warning to the Israeli leadership, which is pursuing a policy contrary to the evolution of history, in the hope that it will come to its senses and abandon those methods which are now 4 decades old.

The successive events in the occupied territory and the reactions they arouse against the occupation authorities' terrorist, sanguinary actions prove anew that Israel's only way out of this aggravating dilemma is to accept the idea of an international conference as the only acceptable option to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

Therefore, Israel has no choice but to abandon the old colonialist concepts—concepts which have already been buried by peoples' struggle and sacrifices for the sake of achieving freedom and asserting their national identities. Otherwise, Israel will be solely responsible for prolonging the conflict in the area, deepening wounds, and intensifying the bitterness.

Thus, out of its awarness of this grave Israeli position, which rejects the option of just peace, Jordan has continued to advocate a pan-Arab policy based on building intrinsic Arab power in the military, economic, social, and cultural fields so that we, as an Arab nation, will have the means to defend our great homeland and secure our right to stability, progress, and peace.

'Human Losses' Only Incentive for Peace

JN181249 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
18 Dec 87 pp 1, 17

[Editorial: "Human Losses Will Deter Israel"]

[Text] The UN Security Council will not be able to put an end to the bloody Israeli practices in the occupied territories even if it succeeds in adopting a resolution condemning these practices. Despite the countless UN resolutions of condemnation, Israel continues to implement its strategy with the aim of annihilating the Palestinian people, emptying the occupied territory of its owners, and putting the Arabs and the world before a fait accompli.

This means that confrontation of the Israeli strategy requires the adoption of a unified Arab strategy based on the principle of "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth." It is obvious that Israel continues to kill the kinfolk in the occupied territories because the Israeli killers have not paid a painful and mournful price. They will be deterred from shedding the blodd of others if one of them is killed for every Palestinian martyr. Human losses alone can return the Israeli killers to their senses. Otherwise, a thousand UN Security Council resolutions of condemnation will not have the same effect as the death of scores of Israelis versus scores of Palestinian martyrs.

Therefore, the Arabs should confront the bloody Israeli insanity with a deterrent measure. This requires them to support and promote resistance in the occupied territories with all possible means so that this resistance can make the Israeli killers pay the price they should pay. Only then will Israel reconsider its calculations in light of the human losses it sustains for its retention of the occupied territories. The greater its losses, the weaker the Israeli fist in the Palestinian territories becomes. This will give Israel a real political incentive to accept a just and comprehensive peace in this area.

The Arabs have tested the method of complaint but to no avail. It is time for them to deal with the Israeli killers with the method they understand and to extend to the fighting kinfolk in the occupied territories everything that helps them to defend themselves and confront the bloody Israeli terrorism.

World reaction to the Israeli killers' practices—reaction ranging from condemnation to denunciation, anxiety, and fury—remain mere sentiments which cannot spare the Palestinian blood the killers are blindly squandering without punishment. These sentiments are useless and, therefore, the Arabs should wage the battle of self-defense. They should also realize that the Israeli crimes against the kinfolk in the occupied territories are serious challenges facing the whole Arab nation and that these challenges should be eliminated before they extend them to their own homes outside the occupation walls. Waiting will not bring security to anyone and distance is no longer a barrier against aggression. Peace, the most sublime human requirement, should not remain absent from our area forever.

9 February Group Claims Attacks on Syrians

NC171510 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] The Khalil 'Akkawi squad of the 9 February Organization says that its fighters attacked a position of the Syrian occupation forces near the Al-Fadilah School in the Al-Khannaq section of Tripoli at dawn today. The group adds that several Syrian soldiers were wounded in the attack, which was carried out with machineguns and rockets.

The 9 February Organization had earlier claimed that it carried out two attacks against the Syrians in 'Akkar and Al-Minyah last night.

Syrians Wounded 18 Dec

NC181228 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 18 Dec 87

[Text] The Martyr Khalil 'Akkawi squad of the 9 February Organization has claimed responsibility for a rocket and machinegun attack on a Syrian occupation center near the Al-'Inayah al-Ahliyah building in the Abu Samrah area of Tripoli. The organization reported that a 15-minute clash took place in which a number of Syrian occupation soldiers were wounded.

Syrian Official Claims 7 Arrested in North

NC171819 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] An official representing the Syrian forces in the north has invited reporters to visit the Al-Kurah area, particularly the towns of Bturram and Shikka, in order to acquaint themselves with the real situation, which the Lebanese Forces and Phalangist media are distorting.

The official emphasized today that nothing unusual is taking place in this area. He added that the Syrian forces arrested only seven persons after fire was opened at one of their soldiers in Bturram last week. He said that pistols equipped with silencers, explosive material, documents proving connection with the Lebanese Forces, and written orders to carry out assassinations, sabotage, and security disturbances in the area, were confiscated from the seven people.

Syrians Revising Security, Redeploying

NC180959 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 18 Dec 87

[Text] According to a report on the situation in the north, which was received a short time ago, the Syrian occupation forces are in the process of redeployment. They have mustered their scattered military posts in protected major assembly points and are setting up earthen ramparts around their units to elude hostile acts. In Tripoli, where the Syrians have advised the public to guard their buildings and houses at night by themselves, they have also taken over the upper floors of the city buildings for their own use. In addition, Syrians in the Shikka and Al-Hiri areas have asked the armed organizations that assist them in their night guard duties to stop doing so and to surrender their weapons.

The Syrians have prepared name lists at their checkpoints, particularly in Al-Madfun, which include the names of all youths living in the north so that they can be arrested before they head for the eastern area. It is known that scores of young men in the areas of Al-Kurah, Al-Batrun, Tripoli, and Al-Zawiyah have left their homes and taken refuge in the woods because of the recent extensive Syrian raids.

Meanwhile, it has been learned that gunfire was heard in Al-Kurah at 1000 today, the reasons for which are not yet known. Other reports state that the occupation forces stormed several houses yesterday in the town of Fi' in Al-Kurah, beating up and threatening many people.

2 Killed, 4 Wounded in West Beirut Car Bomb

NC171958 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] A white pickup blew up near the Al-Qital School and the airport bridge [in West Beirut] at 2045 today. Two people were killed and four others were wounded in the blast. The victims were admitted to the Al-Sahil and American University Hospitals. Tension now prevails in the area and military personnel have deployed there.

Israelis Cruise Coast; Complaint Sent to UN

NC180826 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 18 Dec 87

[Text] Israeli gunboats have been cruising off the southern coast from Sidon to Al-Naqurah since last night.

Meanwhile, Lebanon lodged a complaint with the UN secretary general over the Israeli aggression against western Al-Biqa' last Tuesday. Rashid Fakhuri, Lebanon's permanent representative to the UN, sent a message to the UN secretary general saying that Israeli helicopters had attacked and hit a Lebanese Army position in western Al-Biqa'. He also noted that an Israeli tank force had advanced toward Maydun, which is 21 km from the Lebanese-Israeli borders, and bombarded it and two other villages in the area, causing devastation and killing or wounding well over 25 people.

Resistance Claims Israeli Casualties

NC171811 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] The resistance men launched a large-scale attack against a post jointly held by the Israeli forces and Lahd militia near the Abu Qamhah junction in Hasbayya today. They were engaged in a fierce 5-hour battle with the elements manning the post and with the support forces the Israelis had amassed there. The resistance men managed to raid the post and hold it for 30 minutes. According to preliminary reports, four enemy soldiers were killed and five others were wounded in the fighting. Other reports indicate that six resistance fighters were martyred.

The Lebanese National Resistance Front has issued a statement saying that the Martyr Jamal Sati group and the Martyrs Wafa' Nur al-Din, 'Ali Faqih, and 'Ali Salamah groups launched a large-scale attack against the main artillery post of agent Lahd, a joint checkpoint of the occupation forces and their agents near the Abu Qamhah junction, and against the troops which came from occupied Palestine and used Hasbayya's main road. The statement adds that there was fierce fighting in this area, which extended to the slopes of Mount Hermon.

The statement notes: The enemy brought reinforcements to the battlefield in the form of vehicles, mechanized forces, and helicopters. The resistance men waged a heroic battle using all types of weapons.

In another development, the resistance men detonated an explosive device weighing 10 kg of TNT under an agent militia military vehicle while it was traversing the main street in Hasbayya at 0800 this morning. The vehicle was destroyed and four of its crew were wounded. A force of the enemy and agent Lahd's militia arrived at the scene and mounted a search in the streets of the town and its environs. The enemy acted in a hysterical manner during the search, for this was the first time that resistance men had detonated an explosive device in this place, in which there is a major military presence.

3 'Terrorists', 1 SLA Soldier Killed 18 Dec

NC181157 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic
1100 GMT 18 Dec 87

[Text] South Lebanese Army [SLA] soldiers today dealt a fresh blow to the terrorists trying to disturb the citizens' security in the areas where the SLA is present. Three terrorist infiltrators were killed today during a clash with an SLA patrol in the Bab al-Thaniyah area, which took place after the patrol was ambushed. One SLA soldier was martyred and two others wounded as a result.

Immediately afterward, the area was combed and the terrorists were chased. The SLA was able to kill three terrorists and to capture personal weapons, rocket shells, and munitions. This blow is the second in 24 hours and comes after SLA soldiers killed six terrorists in Hasbayya yesterday.

Meanwhile, an SLA patrol reconnoitering the Bint Jubayl area today discovered two explosive charges. The patrol dismantled them without causing any damage or loss of life.

UN's Goulding Confers With Amal Officials

NC180634 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0530 GMT 18 Dec 87

[Text] Within the context of the UN moves in the region, UN Under Secretary General Marrack Goulding inspected the UNIFIL positions in Bra'shit, Tibnin, Ma'rakah, and Burj Qallawiyah in the south yesterday. At the UN logistics center in Tyre, Goulding met with Dawud Dawud, head of the Amal Movement's Executive Committee; 'Abd al-Majid Salih, the official in charge of the Movement's political affairs in the south; 'Ali Khurays, the official in charge of the Movement's organizational affairs in the south; and Tyre District officer Ghassan Haydar.

At a news conference attended by local journalists, the UN envoy expressed the conviction that there are no obstacles impeding the renewal of the UNIFIL mandate, nor are there any proposals involving the fate of the UNIFIL task in the south. He added that the UN secretary general believes that the current UN task is the most appropriate.

Responding to a question about the negotiations with Israel on the implementation of Resolution 425, Goulding pointed out that the United Nations is holding exchanges, not negotiations. However, the Israeli stand on this particular issue is still the same, he said.

Touching on the international peace conference, the UN envoy said that most of the countries, except for Israel, have approved the idea, but every country has a different standpoint on the conference. He added that the United States has reservations on the issue.

Al-Huss Leaves for Algiers Arab League Meeting

NC181222 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1130 GMT 18 Dec 87

[Text] Acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss left for Algiers at noon today where he will chair the meeting of the Arab experts team formed by the Arab League Economic Council. The team will study the possibility of rearranging the structure of institutions in charge of joint Arab action. During the visit, Dr al-Huss will meet with a number of ranking Algerian officials.

Al-Asad on Efforts To Release FRG Hostage

JN171954 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1748 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad today asserted that Syria is exerting its utmost to secure the release of Rudolf Cordes, an FRG national detained in Lebanon. Al-Asad made this statement during a meeting with Hans Stercken, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee in the FRG Parliament.

Al-Asad Receives FRG Parliament Official

JN171934 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] At 1130 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Dr Hans Stercken, IPU chairman and chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee in the FRG Parliament. The meeting was attended by Dr 'Ali Rida, deputy speaker of the People's Assembly; Shakir Sa'id, chairman of the Arab and Foreign Relations Committee of the People's Assembly; and Dr (Hermann Schlingzeigen), the FRG ambassador in Damascus. Talks revolved around the current situation in the region, including the conditions in Lebanon, the Gulf war, and the European role with regard to the region's problems.

Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received Dr Hans Stercken at 1030 today. The meeting was attended by Shakir Sa'id, chairman of the Arab and Foreign Relations Committee at the People's Assembly; Sulayman Haddad, the Syrian ambassador in Bonn; and the FRG ambassador in Damascus. Talks centered on the international situation, the events in the region, and cooperation between the Syrian Parliament and the IPU.

Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received Dr Stercken at 1330 today. The meeting was attended by Shakir Sa'id, chairman of the Arab and Foreign Relations Committee in the People's Assembly; Sulayman Haddad, the Syrian ambassador in Bonn; and the FRG ambassador in Damascus. Discussions focused on a number of issues of mutual concern.

People's Assembly Deputy Speaker 'Ali Rida received Dr Stercken this morning. The meeting was attended by Shakir Sa'id, chairman of the Arab and Foreign Relations Committee in the People's Assembly; Sulayman Haddad, the Syrian Ambassador in Bonn; Rajab Ibrahim, secretary of the People's Assembly; and the FRG ambassador in Damascus. They exchanged ideas on parliamentary relations between Syria and the FRG and the situation in the region.

Austrian Defense Minister Leaves Damascus

JN171714 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1158 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] Damascus, 17 Dec (SANA)—Robert Lichal, Austrian minister of national defense, and his accompanying delegation left Damascus this morning following a visit of several days to Syria. General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and defense minister, led those who saw him off at Damascus airport.

Prime Minister Receives Iranian Ambassador

JN180901 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 30 Nov 87

[Text] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received Iranian Ambassador to Syria Mohammad Hasan Akhtari at 1200 today. Bilateral relations and ways to promote them, as well as issues of mutual concern, were discussed during the meeting.

Minister Reviews Ties With Iranian Ambassador

JN180728 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1204 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] Damascus, 17 Dec (SANA)—Minister of Higher Education Kamal Sharaf received the Iranian ambassador to Syria here today. They reviewed cultural and scientific relations between Syria and Iran and how to increase the exchange of scientific expertise and scholarships.

Commentary Praises Anti-Israeli Resistance

JN171623 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] The ongoing violent battles on the West Bank and in Gaza, and the numerous martyrs who have been shot by the occupation army, provoke large-scale denunciation from the world and lay bare the rancorous, grudge-bearing Zionist instincts before those who are concerned about realizing security and just peace in our region and who are interested in liquidating terrorism, racism, and neo-Nazism in this sensitive region of the world.

The lopsided battles between U.S. arms with their Zionist users on the one hand and the stones used by the Arab nation's sons in occupied Palestine on the other are a violent contest between the will to liberate the land and an unjust force that violates human rights, international conventions and resolutions, and world unanimity on realizing just peace in the region. Such an unjust force must be curbed and its crimes and evils must be stopped. It must be compelled to heed the will of the international community. The steadfastness and sacrifices of the Arab citizens in the occupied territory are echoed by the honest people in the Arab homeland and the world.

The Arab strugglers consider these sacrifices to be a new and strong incentive for strengthening and promoting the Arab nation's steadfastness in the face of the continuous imperialist and Zionist plots to liquidate the Palestinian cause. These sacrifices are being made on all the Arab territories in the West Bank, Gaza, the Golan Heights, and southern Lebanon to strengthen the Arab confrontation front and bolster it to defeat the partial solutions of capitulations. The Zionists with their old and new means of repression will not be able to weaken the will of the heroic Arab resistance and struggle against Zionist crimes and aggressive, expansionist schemes.

The multifaceted Arab resistance that has been continuing since the beginning of the Zionist occupation of Palestine is stronger and greater than the enemy armor, planes, and jails because the principle of this steadfast Arab resistance is firmer, stronger, and more powerful than the laws of terrorism, colonialism, and expansion which Zionism has been trying in vain to impose on the legitimate owners of the land.

Therefore, we believe—and all the free men in our greater homeland and the world share this belief with us—that the future is for our Arab nation and that the justice of our cause will ultimately triumph. The just solution for the Middle East problem will certainly be realized, thanks to Arab heroism, sacrifice, and steadfastness. Our Arab nation and steadfast forces will not accept any solution for the Middle East except the one that was reaffirmed by the United Nations, because it will restore every occupied inch of our territory and all our usurped rights.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Sends Message to Gorbachev on Summit

LD180706 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0448 GMT 18 Dec 87

[Text] Kabul, December 17, BAKHTAR—In a message addressed to Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CC CPSU, Dr. Najibullah greeted him on the major success made by the signing of the treaty to eliminate the intermediate and shorter-range nuclear missiles and his triumphant visit to the United States of America.

The conclusion of the significant treaty, which is the first fundamental step toward the implementation of nuclear disarmament, became possible as a consequence of persistent and long efforts to create an atmosphere of mutual confidence and reduction of the threat of a nuclear conflict. (?It) enjoys the full support of the people of Afghanistan, states the message.

Appreciating the unceasing efforts and constructive initiatives and proposals of Mikhail Gorbachev, adds the message, the people of Afghanistan regard them as the most important share in the cause of emancipation of humanity from the danger of a nuclear war.

We welcome the creation of an atmosphere which would help the settlement of regional conflicts including the issues around Afghanistan at a world level, and believe that the talks of the leaders of both countries of the Soviet Union and the United States is a major step towards the solution of humanity's hot issues through peaceful means.

Protest Made to Pakistan on Military Violations

LD171542 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] The charge d'affaires at the Pakistani Embassy in Kabul was summoned today to the First Political Department of the Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Afghanistan and was handed the following protest note:

While carrying out routine reconnaissance flights in the Torkham area, Afghan military aircraft came under fire of [word indistinct] and air defense by the military forces of Pakistan against international norms and regulations. The incident took place on 10 December 1987.

Therefore, the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan strongly protests against these violations by the Pakistani military force to the government of that country and demands that the relevant authorities of that country refrain from repeating this type of irresponsible act which causes an exacerbation and deterioration in relations between the two countries. Otherwise, responsibility for the serious consequences of these actions will rest with the Pakistani authorities.

Kabul Rocket Attack; Esmat Muslim in Moscow

AU181103 Paris AFP in English 1020 GMT 18 Dec 87

[Text] Moscow, Dec 18 (AFP)—Rockets fired by U.S.-backed rebels pounded areas near central Kabul for at least 20 minutes overnight Thursday, Western diplomats in Kabul contacted by telephone told AFP Friday.

The diplomats also said that a former rebel commander now on the Afghan Government side, who was wounded in a shoot-out with Afghan soldiers during a government-called assembly or "Loya Jirgah" in Kabul on November 30, was currently in Moscow with two of his wives.

The former rebel, Esmat Muslim, a member of the ruling Revolutionary Council and known in Kabul as a maverick "wild man" since joining the Soviet-backed government two years ago, was wounded as he tried to shoot his way through a roadblock set up near the hall where the "Loya Jirgah" was voting to confirm Afghan leader Najibullah as president.

The diplomats suggested that General Muslim had been brought to Moscow for discussions on his "improper behaviour" during the jirgah.

Diplomats said that Thursday's attack, the most serious incident since military posts around the perimeter of the Afghan capital were reinforced 18 months ago, coincided with a long power cut "for most of the night" which had unusually affected the city's fashionable districts, at a time when the weather is not cold enough to trigger electricity shortages. But it was not known if the failure was due to sabotage.

Heavy artillery attacks in Kabul have become more frequent in the last three weeks since Western journalists were in the Afghan capital for the jirgah, the diplomats said. The first day of the assembly opened to the sound of rebel-fired rockets exploding in the vicinity as Mr. Najibullah was addressing the conference.

The diplomats said that while the Afghan Army presence in the street had been cut back since the heavily-patrolled jirgah, "it's got a lot noisier here at night". The last rocket attack heard in central areas was on the night of December 7-8, according to one diplomat.

Electricity Accords Signed With Soviet Republics

LD180302 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0426 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] Kabul, December 16, BAKHTAR—Protocols of direct cooperation of the Kazakh and Tajik Soviet Socialist Republics with Qandahar Brishna (electricity) and Ghori Brishna (electricity) zones of the Ministry of Power of the Republic of Afghanistan was concluded today. The protocols provide for a gratis aid of equipment, for Qandahar Brishna zone worth five hundred thousand rubles to be delivered to the Afghan side within a one year period. Another contract provides for a gratis aid of equipments needed by Ghori Brishna zone at a cost of six hundred thousand roubles.

Uzbekistan, Balkh Sign Accord

LD180310 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] A treaty of direct cooperation in the supply of the Balkh electric zone with 200,000 rubles' worth of essential equipment by the Uzbekistan SSR was signed today in Kabul. BIA reports that the treaty was signed by Nazar Muhammad Paktin, minister of electrical energy, and Tashpulatov, minister of electricity and energy of the Uzbekistan SSR. Documents were exchanged.

Under the terms of this agreement, which is being signed on the basis of direct cooperation between the Republic of Afghanistan and Uzbekistan SSR, the electric equipment for Balkh Province will be supplied in a year's time and delivered to the Afghan side. A number of professional cadres will be sent to Uzbekistan SSR to get professional and technical experience.

BAKHTAR Praises Cooperation

LD180714 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0421 GMT 18 Dec 87

[Text] Kabul, December 17, BAKHTAR—Afghan-Soviet cooperation has many dimensions in the economic, political, military, cultural, scientific and other spheres of life. Nevertheless, during the recent years, it has been expanded and enriched with newer forms of application.

But, perhaps, the most important innovation in the cooperation between the two countries especially from the social point of view, are the establishment of direct links of the provinces of the country with the republics and regions of the USSR.

Now each of the 29 provinces of Afghanistan have direct links with one or another republic or region of the Soviet Union.

The agreements on direct links envisage the exchange of delegations and groups of public figures, experts, representatives of the different strata of population; links between the working collectives of enterprises and organizations; dispatch of Soviet specialists for rendering assistance to Afghan colleagues in the fields of medicine, education, agricultural production; additional admittance of the youth of the provinces to educational institutions of the republics and regions concerned; cooperation of mass media aimed at mutual acquaintance of the population with the traditions and the present-day life of the fraternal peoples, and so on.

Besides, as a means of direct assistance, the Soviet republics and regions give to the Afghan provinces various goods and materials that are particularly needed by one or another province. And these include not only consumer goods, but also machinery for food processing and building construction, for drilling water wells and generating electric energy, for loading and transporting, equipment for workshops and small enterprises, for medical establishments, etc.

A question arises: What has caused such a decentralization of links between the two states? Which gains does it envisage for both the sides? Are the state treaties and agreements not enough?

It should be emphasized that such questions had not been raised by the authorities of the provinces. There, they immediately understood all the advantages of direct links. Of course, the general state development plan does exist, which reflects the measures concerning one or another province. The central government defines where and when these or other goods and equipment should be dispatched. But it is also not a secret that not always these priorities are based on deep enough knowledge of real needs of one or another province.

Quite often they are ruled by the fact of remoteness from the centre and the consequent possibilities of transportation of goods. The subjective factor in solving similar problems is still quite great. As a result some, especially remote provinces are considerably lagging behind in their development from other provinces which are in better and more beneficial conditions.

Direct links give more initiative to the local administration in the provinces, enable them to ask and receive the very equipment and those kinds of help which are really needed in the localities. So to say, from the chain of links, in this particular case, the intermediary link is excluded which, at times, due to different reasons is not responsive enough to the needs of the provinces. Of course, the centralized administration of the economic and social development of the provinces remains in its full command, but their direct links with the Soviet republics and regions give additional possibilities for ever greater development.

And, of course, it is worth mentioning that such a phenomenon has become possible under the conditions when the reconstruction of economic, political, and social spheres of life is going on in the Soviet Union, in the course of which direct contacts of separate enterprises and establishments with their foreign counterparts are being widely practised.

'Extremists' Kill 1, Injure 8 in Herat

LD172323 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] Criminal extremists in Shahr-e Naw, Herat Province, martyred one of our compatriots and wounded eight others.

A BIA military correspondent reported that these criminals loaded a donkey with a large amount of explosives and took it to the most crowded part of the city, where many people were shopping, and there it was exploded. The report adds that as a result of this savage and criminal act, which occured at about 1430 today, a number of the shops on Bank Street were also damaged.

The peace-loving people and the National Reconciliation Commission of Herat have expressed their condemnation and repugnance at this act of war and bloodshed at a time when our people are expecting the implementation of the national reconciliation policy in light of the decisions and resolutions of national reconciliation all over the country.

Two Groups Crushed in Faryab Province

LD172312 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] Two armed extremist groups, which were engaged in terrorist acts in Faryab Province, were crushed and 40 members, including the commander of a group, Lal Muhammad, were captured.

A BIA military correspondent reports that the people of Ata Khan, Khwaja, and Darband villages in the Pashtun Kot District reported the operations of the extremist groups in their area to the National Reconciliation Commission and requested the assistance of the Armed Forces.

The Armed Forces, after receiving the request of the people of the area and of the National Reconciliation Commission, entered the region and asked the extremist groups, in consideration of the cease-fire, to surrender their arms. The extremists rejected the request and replied with their weapons. Therefore, the Armed Forces launched a counterattack and seized 40 of the extremists together with 3 machineguns, 1 mortar, 40 assorted weapons, thousands of cartridges, and 2 arms depots.

Bangladesh

Spokesman Clarifies Media Restrictions

BK180208 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
0110 GMT 18 Dec 87

[Text] Government has ruled out the question of any discriminatory restrictions on the members of the media. A spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in Dhaka yesterday that the government continues to solicit the goodwill and cooperation of the media and assures them of all courtesy and cooperation. He was clarifying a news item recently published in a section of the press implying certain restrictions on the entry of newsmen into Foreign Office.

Curfew Reimposed at Midnight 17 Dec

BK171600 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] The curfew will be reimposed at 1200 tonight and it will continue till 0400 tomorrow morning in Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi, and Narayanganj. There will be no curfew from 0400 tomorrow morning till 1200 tomorrow night. The industrial areas of Demra, Adamji, Fatullah, and Faujdar Hat will remain outside the purview of curfew.

Opposition Parties Continue To Voice Demands

BK180200 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
0110 GMT 18 Dec 87

[Text] JSD [Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal] leader A.S.M. Abdur Rab has expressed the apprehension that the activities being carried out in the name of movement will cripple the economic growth and make the country dependent on others. Speaking at a discussion meeting held on the occasion of the Victory Day in Dhaka yesterday, he reiterated the demand of a 500-seat Parliament [as heard] and participation of workers and employees in the economic management of the country. Mr Rab opined that the opposition political parties have become isolated from the people because of their aimless and violent political activities.

Jamiat-i Islami has said the government should be changed according to the wishes of people and through a democratic process. At a meeting of the Majlis-i Shoora [advisory council] in Dhaka yesterday, the party demanded free election exercise under a neutral caretaker government.

The president and general secretary of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, Mr Shahjahan Siraj and A.B.M. Shahjahan, have called for constituting a nonpartisan and neutral government immediately for holding free and fair election. In a joint statement, they demanded release of all political prisoners.

The first secretary of the Sramik Krisak Samajbadi Dal, Mr Siddiqur Rahman, has demanded immediate release of all political detenues, including those of the five-party alliance. The Jana Dal leaders at a meeting in Dhaka yesterday have expressed the urgency of holding elections to maintain a constitutional process in the country.

Sheikh Hasina Demands Ershad Resignation

BK171058 Dhaka SANGBAD in Bengali
13 Dec 87 pp 1, 8

[Text] Sheikh Hasina, leader of the Bangladesh Awami League, said that there is no hope of holding elections under the Ershad government; this issue is not even discussed. Nor is there any chance of having a dialogue with a person whose resignation we are demanding through the movement, she added. Sheikh Hasina made this announcement to newsmen last evening at her 32

Dhanmondi Street residence. Congratulating the people for making the countrywide 12-hour program convened by opposition alliances and parties yesterday a success, she said that the entire nation is united today on a single demand [to oust the present government].

Sheikh Hasina asked President Ershad to transfer power immediately to those people acceptable to all alliances and parties. She said that a free and fair election should be held in accordance with the timeframe prescribed in the Constitution under the supervision of a neutral, nonparty caretaker government. Such an election can facilitate setting up a people's representative government, she added.

In reply to a question on transfer of power, Sheikh Hasina stated: "The power should go to any person acceptable to the people and not to a tout of 1971." In this context she said that after General Ershad's departure we will decide what should be done. "First, let Ershad decide whether or not he is leaving. At least he should make an announcement in this regard."

Sheikh Hasina asserted that "General Ershad is the root of all crises in the country. He wants to move the nation toward a constitutional crisis".

Sheikh Hasina demanded the immediate lifting of the emergency and the release of all political prisoners, including lawyers. She alleged that Abul Fazal Khan, vice president of the Madaripur District Awami League, had been killed on Friday night and lodged a protest against this murder.

Refuting a statement of President Ershad, Sheikh Hasina said that the reference of Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim [in the name of God, the most beneficent and merciful] has been dragged into the 1972 Constitution. In fact, it is not contrary to the four basic principles of the 1972 Constitution. Ershad's statements on this issue are planned to create confusion.

Referring to the slogans of "Bengal of this side and the Bengal of the other side" appearing on the walls of the capital, Sheikh Hasina said that everyone knows who wrote these things while the curfew was in progress. In the past, similar conspiracies were made against the progressive and democratic camps, but those did not bear fruit. She affirmed that the people of this country launched the war of liberation for the present geographical boundary of Bangladesh, and they themselves will safeguard its independence and sovereignty.

Sheikh Hasina said that the Ershad government is only shedding crocodile tears for the flood victims, but continuously increasing its expenditure in unproductive areas. It has built 1.64 billion taka worth of stadiums in the subdivisions. There was no need to construct an expensive parade ground; instead, houses could be built there for the government employees. In lieu of building new houses for the ministers and the renovation of the Secretariat and president's house, money could be utilized for the the flood victims.

Sheikh Hasina called for the observance of the eight-party program on the occasion of the Martyred Intellectuals Day and Victory Day. She issued a warning to the radio and television sectors, saying that instead of broadcasting the 1971 and 16 December joy and slogans of the Bangladeshi people, radio and television present something else. If the same trick is done this time, appropriate action will be taken.

Criticizing the orders closing the BBC operations in Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina said that it has lowered the prestige of Bangladesh in the eyes of the world. She demanded a wide scope for broadcasting objective news.

The central Awami League leaders Abdus Samad Azad, Abdul Mannan, Sajeda Chowdhury, Pulin Dey, Abdul Jalil, Amir Hussain Amu, Mohammad Nasim, and Matiya Chowdhury were present when Sheikh Hasina made her statement to newsmen.

India

USSR's Petrovskiy Meets With Gandhi

BK180526 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] A Soviet delegation called on the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, in New Delhi today. The delegation was led by the Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister, V.F. Petrovskiy.

Antiterrorist Laws Reinvoked in Darjeeling

BK180914 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 18 Dec 87

[Text] The West Bengal Government has reinvoked antiterrorist laws in the three subdivisions of Darjeeling, Kurseong, and Kalimpong last night to contain GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] violence. Giving this information, the district magistrate, Mr D.P. Patra, told our Siliguri correspondent that one GNLF activist has already been arrested under the provision of the law in Kalimpong.

Meanwhile, reports of more violence have come in from hill areas. The Bloc Development Office at (Algara) and one forest office near Kalimpong market were completely gutted when set ablaze by GNLF activists last night. Government property worth 30 lakh rupees was also damaged.

Extremist Group Kills 6 in Tripura 18 Dec

BK181253 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 18 Dec 87

[Text] Six persons, including two women and a child, were shot dead by TNV [Tripura National Volunteers] extremists at (Tui Chakmabari) village in South Tripura District today. Three others were seriously injured. According to police, the extremists fired indiscriminately kiliing five persons on the spot. Another died on the way to hospital.

2 'Terrorists,' 5 Others Killed in Punjab

BK180312 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 8 Dec 87

[Text] In Punjab, seven persons, including two terrorists, were killed in separate incidents last night. In Ferozepore District, some terrorists forced their entry into the house of Surjit Singh and gunned down four of his family members. They seriously injured his grandson. Surjit Singh escaped unhurt. In the second incident in Gurdaspur District, a former police head constable, Tara Singh, was shot dead by terrorists in village Talwandi.

Meanwhile, two scooter-borne terrorists were killed in an encounter with the security forces at a village near Moga. The terrorists opened fire when signaled to stop by a police party. In the exchange of fire which followed, the two terrorists were killed. They have been identified as Balbahadur Singh and Mohan Singh.

The Punjab Governor, Mr Ray, has said that at least four to five terrorist groups are active in the state and receiving financial assistance from outside bodies and associations. Addressing a news conference at Ludhiana yesterday, he reiterated his government's resolve to firmly deal with these antinational elements. Earlier, addressing a mass contact meeting organized by the Health Department, Mr Ray said that 500 migrant families have already returned to the state. He said the remaining families are being persuaded to return. At the same time, families which have migrated to Punjab in the wake of riots in other states will be persuaded soon to return to their states.

Iran

Musavi-Ardabili Delivers Friday Prayers Sermon

LD181400 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 18 Dec 87

[Text] We begin our news report with the Friday prayers sermons of Tehran, which were delivered by Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili at the University of Tehran.

The president of the Supreme Judicial Council referred in the Friday prayers sermons to the links between the anniversary of the unity between the seminaries and universities, the anniversary of the martyrdom of Ayatollah Dr Mohammad Mofatteh, and the need for unity among all strata. Praising the personality of this martyr, both from the spiritual and scholarly point of view, and his services to the Islamic Revolution, he said: By preserving unity in all fields, we must struggle to advance the objectives of the Islamic Revolution in Iran and in the world.

Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili went on to refer to the glorious uprising of the Muslim people of Palestine and their struggle against the regime occupying Jerusalem. He said that the land of Palestine is sacred for us Muslims because the first Qiblah of Muslims is situated there. Today, unfortunately, the world's Muslims are seeing the Muslim people of Palestine being killed in their own house. At present, there is war between justice and injustice and between the oppressed and the oppressor. In our opinion, the enemy that is carrying out the killings in Palestine is also the aggressor in the Persian Gulf. These joint enemies are America and Zionism.

The chairman of the Supreme Judicial Council denounced the compromising deeds of the leaders of Arab countries at the Amman conference and of Palestinian leaders for their reconciliation with the usurper Israeli regime. He said: We should learn from the uprising of the people of Palestine, who have risen to confront the occupiers of Palestine with their bare hands, just using stones and sticks. We should know that real power in a country comes from the people and if nations revolt—even women and children—even if they are defenseless, they will still make the strongest nations tremble.

Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili added: The path that the Muslim people of Palestine have chosen is one that the resistant and self-sacrificing people of Iran have placed before them. The Islamic Republic of Iran has shown the world in recent years that it is committed to its independence, seeks to achieve self-sufficiency in all fields, and tries not to depend on foreign countries. The chairman of the Supreme Judicial Council, addressing those who shed crocodile tears, who feel sorry for the continuation of the imposed Iraqi war with Iran, said: It would be better for you to feel sorry for the oppressed and defenseless Palestinian people and to prevent the merciless killings by the regime occupying Jerusalem in Gaza. In order to convince your own conscience and that of your nations, do not buy more disgrace and shamefulness than you already have. Do not keep a deadly silence in the face of the glorious revolt of the Muslim people of Palestine. Raise your voice in unison with the voice of the people of Palestine.

Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili stressed that the revolt of the Muslim people of Palestine is supported by the nation of Iran and the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He said: We declare to the Muslims of the world that it is the humanitarian and Islamic duty of all Muslims to conduct, in any form possible, marches and demonstrations, to send money, blood, and arms to support this humane and justice-seeking revolt of the people of Palestine.

Contents of Khomeyni's 'Amended Will' Cited

*JN180949 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic
16 Dec 87 pp 1, 17*

[Text] Paris—It has been disclosed here that Iranian religious leader Khomeyni has called himself the "absent imam," ordered that the war against Iraq must continue until the "second Islamic empire" is established, and called on all Shi'ites in the world to elect him by acclamation after his death as the 12th imam in the series of imams who succeeded Imam 'Ali ibn Abu Talib, may God's blessing be upon him.

This was contained in the amended will Khomeyni has consigned to the Council of Trustees, which is chaired by his successor, Hoseyn Montazeri. A reliable Iranian opposition source here communicated the contents of the will to "important quarters" in the French Government. The source said that "his cadres" in Qom have read Khomeyni's second will and communicated its contents to parties abroad.

According to the source, in his will Khomeyni states that anyone who accepts an end to the war with Iraq before the second Islamic empire is established is an infidel and an apostate. Khomeyni sets the boundaries of this empire from Egypt in the west to the Gulf countries, the Arabian Peninsula, and the two parts of Yemen to the south. Khomeyni says that the two parts of Yemen will become the first central vilayet [administrative division] from which the first "Muslim legions" will proceed. In his amended will, Khomeyni sets Egypt as the second central vilayet and says that "Muslim armies will march from it to reconquer the Arab Maghreb countries" after which they will pass through the Strait of Gibraltar to regain Andalusia.

Khomeyni also announces that he had a revelation that he will die in the next Persian year which starts in September 1988. He says that he expects to die 2 months after the new Persian year begins, which means that his death will take place between October and November next year.

The amended will says that Khomeyni's successor will read the contents of the will to the Iranians and the Shi'ite followers present at his funeral. The will also says that Khomeyni's successor will announce that it has been ascertained by the Shi'ite sect through revelation that martyr Khomeyni is the absent imam and that Shi'ites throughout the world must perform the pilgrimage on his death anniversary every year. The will also calls for obeying what it calls the Muslims' divine right to perform pilgrimage and to oppose "anything that will make a specific Muslim faction monopolize Mecca." This expression was interpreted as an invitation to pursue the seditious actions the Iranians perpetrated during the last pilgrimage.

With respect to the domestic situation in Iran, the amended will cancels the elections for the post of president of the Republic after Khomeyni's death. The will says that this post has been dictated by the circumstances surrounding the foundation of the second Islamic empire whose bases were established by Khomeyni and, because during his lifetime Khomeyni was the best guarantor of the fairness of the head of state, it is useless for Muslims to become preoccupied after his death with an issue that could divert their attention from the duties of jihad. For this reason, Khomeyni's successor will become the head of state and successor of the absent imam.

The will also calls for replacing the Iranian Army with the "Muslims' army" which should comprise strugglers from all parts of the world.

The Iranian source passed the contents of the will to AL-SIYASAH hastily, stating that the security situation does not permit one to discuss these things on the telephone. He added that major French papers had obtained the full text of the will but that pressure was brought to bear on them to prevent them from publishing it to avoid any disturbance in the relations between France and Iran, relations which are improving following the deal on the hostages.

Majlis Speaker, 'Future Leader' Montazeri Meet

*LD171642 Tehran IRNA in English 1808 GMT
16 Dec 87*

[Text] Qom, Central Prov., Dec. 16, IRNA—Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani met future leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri here Tuesday evening. The Majlis speaker conferred with Ayatollah Montazeri on various issues of the country.

Khomeyni Reportedly Suffered Heart Attacks

TA171947 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] We have learned from reliable sources that during recent weeks Ruhollah Khomeyni suffered three heart attacks and that after the third one he was in a coma for a long period. The Islamic regime hastily summoned several doctors to his bedside from England and Austria. Ruhollah Khomeyni's consecutive heart attacks during recent weeks have alarmed leaders of the Islamic Republic and increased their rivalry and antagonism toward each other.

The latest reports indicate that Ruhollah Khomeyni's condition is very grave and that he can hardly talk.

Montazeri Urges Support for Palestinians

*LD171554 Tehran IRNA in English 1530 GMT
17 Dec 87*

[Text] Qom, Dec 17 IRNA—Ayatollah Hoseyn Montazeri said today that since the oppressed Palestinian Muslims have empty-handedly risen up against the Zionist army, all Palestinian organizations should put their weapons and resources at the disposal of the Palestinian nation.

The future leader of the Islamic revolution made the remark in a meeting with Palestinian ambassador to Iran Salah al-Zawawi here, where he called on Palestinian organizations to mobilize and despatch all trained and armed Palestinian people from throughout the world to Palestine.

Ayatollah Montazeri stressed that it is an Islamic duty to put all resources, collected for the Palestinian cause, at the disposal of struggling Palestinian Muslims so that other Muslim governments might feel duty-bound to rush help to this oppressed nation.

The revered ayatollah said that a major blow on the Zionist regume would accelerate the liberation of holy Jerusalem.

In response, the Palestinian ambassador thanked Ayatollah Montazeri for the message he cabled three days ago in support of the popular Palestinian uprising in the occupied lands.

Khamene'i Addresses Marchers; Resolution Read

LD171330 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] Professors and students, as well as employees of the Islamic Free University, today went on a glorious march to mark the anniversary of the unity of the university and seminary and to declare their support for the 10-point statement of the Supreme War Support Council. We begin the news of this hour with a report on this occasion, which will be read by my colleague.

The marchers carried pictures of the imam of the ummah and of the deputy leader, as well as placards on which were written "Unity of clergy and students" and "Presence of students on the battlefields against enemies of the Islamic revolution." As they carried the pictures and placards they shouted "War, war until victory," "Death to America," and "Death to Israel." After passing along several routes, the marchers then assembled in front of the Islamic Consultative Assembly.

At this gathering Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, president of the Republic, spoke about the defeat being suffered by the United States and its allies in the Persian Gulf. He also mentioned the resistence, dynamism, and preparedness shown by the Iranian nation to be present on the battlefields to fight the Iraqi regime and global arrogance. He then said: One major U.S. objective was to corner the Iranian nation. They were bent on transferring the scene of battle from the land where wars are now being fought—and everybody could see that on land Iran enjoyed superiority—to the sea. Consequently, they wanted to force the Iranian nation to shift its troop concentration and indeed the focus of its front from the land borders elsewhere. They did so hoping to prevent the defeat of the Saddam regime, a defeat which the Saddam regime was certain to sustain. Of course, one of the plans of the superpowers is that of intimidating other nations. One of the pillars of their superpower status relies on this. However, none of these had any effect on our nation. Our nation shows that it follows all the events with intelligence.

Elaborating on the resistence of the Iranian nation in the 7-year imposed war and conspiracies of arrogance against the Islamic Republic of Iran, the president stressed: If we succeed in attaining justice by relying on the divine will and the power of the nation, then nations will realize that it is possible to attain justice in confrontation with the superpowers.

Mr Khamene'i emphasized: We have not given in to U.S. bullying in the Persian Gulf and will not yield to it. We have proved that we will not tolerate any move by the United States nor any other power or all powers together if, by such a move, they intend to bully us or try to corner our nation. We proved this point in the Persian Gulf, a fact which both the reactionaries of the region and the United States realize.

In another part of his remarks the chairman of the Supreme Defense Council referred to the relentless struggles of the Palestinian Muslims and said: The Palestinian youth have injected a new dynamism into their Islamic and revolutionary movement. This is the remedy for the problem of Palestine. Today, the Palestinian youth do not believe in those who claim to have the mantle of the leadership of Palestine. They have pinned their hopes on God and on their own power. It is now evident that the struggle is taking on a more serious shape. This will be a difficult struggle; it will certainly lead to victory through maintaining the will to resist and to endure.

At the end of the ceremony the resolution of the marchers, drafted in 12 articles, was read. The educationalists expressed their decisive support for the instructions of the Supreme War Support Council and agreed to pay the expenses of a brigade of fighters for 3 months. They also reiterated their pledge of allegiance to the imam of the ummah and the deputy leader. In the resolution the educationalists also pledged to obey the divine regime based on guardianship of the jurisconsult and stressed: The educationalists of the Islamic Free University do not believe that science and knowledge are confined to professors, students, and books. They will adhere to their religious duties as long as the life-giving cry of Islam warrants. They will turn the whole valley of knowledge into a university. The world must know that the threats of the superpowers will not affect the morale of the courageous members of this nation.

The resolution also asked the responsible authorities to provide facilities to make it possible to move units to points close to the battlefields. It also called for the expansion and strengthening of the university units existing in regions close to the battlefields. It asked the authorities to pay attention to units for military understanding with specialized programs. Also, it asks that practical courses and diplomas of the students be geared toward this end.

'Sources' Say PRC Silkworm Missiles Arrive

JN180910 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0810 GMT 18 Dec 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 18 Dec (WAKH)—Informed Gulf maritime sources have stated that Iran recently received a new type of Chinese missile which inflicts heavy damages on vessels and oil tankers. This missile is as powerful as the French Exocet missile used by the Iraqi Air Force in its attacks against Iranian navigation in the Gulf.

AL-ITTIHAD, issued here today, cites these sources as saying that the new missile is of the SS-801 type. It is small in size but has a very destructive power. This missile can be accurately fired at its targets and from any type of vessel, frigate, or even small boat. It can sink a medium-sized vessel and cause great damage to huge oil tankers.

The sources add that these missiles can carry incendiary heads, such as phosphorous heads, and can cause violent explosions on ships setting them on fire by significantly increasing the temperature of the vessel's hull, especially if the vessel is carrying oil or petrochemicals.

The maritime sources believe that the Iranian Navy has a large number of these missiles which it has been using over the past month.

AL-ITTIHAD says Iran can only obtain missiles of this sophistication directly from the PRC or at least with its permission.

Soviet Ambassador Meets With Musavi

LD171738 Tehran IRNA in English 1650 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 17, IRNA—Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi met Soviet Ambassador to Iran Vladimir V. Gudev here today where the latter stressed the necessity of expanding existing collaborations.

Gudev added that it is to the interest of both countries to explore new grounds for further expanding bilateral relations.

He also expressed Soviet keenness for cooperating with the Islamic Republic in the area of oil industry, railways, transport and similar matters, and hoped that necessary ground will be prepared for taking more effective steps at the next joint economic commission session of the two countries, due to be held soon.

Prime Minister Musavi welcomed the expansion of ties and their more furtherance based on the long-term interests of the two countries. The existing mutual understanding in extending the infrastructural economic installations can be useful for protecting the two sides' interests, said the premier.

Soviet Special Envoy To Give Summit Briefing

LD172239 Tehran IRNA in English 1524 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 17, IRNA—Special envoy of the Soviet Government Yuriy Konstantinovich Alekseyev arrived here Thursday to brief Iranian officials on the recent Reagan-Gorbachev summit in Washington. He was greeted at Tehran's international Mehrabad Airport by Iranian Foreign Ministry Officials.

Oil Minister Comments on OPEC Agreement

LD171732 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] Petroleum Minister Aqazadeh announced: The Islamic Republic of Iran, while signing the agreement for (?stabilizing) oil prices in the latest OPEC session in order to preserve that organization's survival, will put forward its own demand for an increase in the price of oil in the future session of that organization.

Mr Aqazadeh made these remarks during a political roundtable discussion on the second network of the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He stressed that the latest OPEC session was its most political one. He added: Countries who supported the Iraqi regime in this session tried to isolate Iran through a political move which was rooted in the recent Arab summit attended by Arab leaders in Amman. However, thanks to the efforts of the Iranian delegation, this design was defeated.

This roundtable, which was also attended by Mr Kazempur-Ardabili, deputy petroleum minister for international and commercial affairs, will be broadcast at 2045 tonight on the second network of the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

'Plot' To Politicize OPEC

LD171907 Tehran IRNA in English 1815 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 17, IRNA—The moves at the 82nd OPEC meet in Vienna by certain OPEC Arab members to oppose any increase in the oil price and to prevent the organization from compensating for the U.S. dollar depreciation, was planned at the Amman Arab summit in line with the U.S. interests, said Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh here Thursday.

Aqazadeh, addressing a televised conference here, said that according to the Amman summit's plot, Iraq was supposed to have a quota equal to that of Iran with the latter being excluded from OPEC's agreements because of its opposition to any such increase.

But, noted Aqazadeh, the scheme was foiled due to the full scale support of a majority of OPEC members for the Islamic Republic's just stance.

The oil minister described as a "political plot" the moves by Persian Gulf OPEC members to prevent an oil price hike because conditions of the oil markets are such that a little decrease in OPEC's production ceiling could lead to higher oil prices.

Also speaking at the conference was Deputy Oil Minister Hoseyn Kazempur-Ardabili who said that non-realization of Iran's goals to boost the oil price does not mean that its rights were trampled upon.

He pointed out not only Iran but all OPEC members could either sail or sink by any decision taken by the organization, and therefore a country whose views did not prevail should not feel that its rights were ignored.

In response to a question as to why Iran signed the agreement in Vienna, Aqazadeh replied that Iran signed it as goodwill gesture solely to preserve the cohesion and strengthening of OPEC, or else oil markets would be destabilized seriously.

"We did not retreat from our goals but rather postponed talks on boosting the oil price until the organization's next meet," the oil minister made it clear.

On the production of oil from the neutral zone on the part of the Kuwaiti and Hijaz [Saudi Arabia] regimes for Iraq, Kazempur-Ardabili said that this production was considered as part of Iraq's quota in the past but now that Iraq has been excluded from OPEC's rationing system this oil is still being sold for Iraq by the two regimes.

The deputy oil minister said that Hijaz and Kuwait's excessive oil production is now a serious problem for other members because the OPEC majority strongly opposes demand for further increase of quotas by countries having excessive production.

Aqazadeh said that OPEC has split up in two separate groups with Iraq and the (P)GCC members making up the minority and Iran and other OPEC members composing a definite majority.

The anti-Iran group is so blindly opposed to the Islamic Republic that it is ready to take any decision even though it might entail losses, in a vain bid to deprive Iran of further oil revenues, said Aqazadeh. The role (P)GCC members play at OPEC is similar to their support of the Baghdad Ba'thist regime in the political field, he added.

Tehran Cites REUTER on Attack on Freighter

LD171758 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] According to REUTER, the freighter "Island Transporter" has been the target of gunboats for a second time. This report, citing shipping sources, states: Today gunboats again shelled the "Island Transporter," a sulfur-carrying ship, after setting it on fire in the southern Persian Gulf. According to this report the ship was traveling from Hijaz [Saudi Arabia] to [word indistinct].

Tehran Cites Agencies on Saudi Tanker Attack

LD181204 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Dec 87

[Text] News agencies, citing shipping sources in the region, have reported that a Saudi supertanker was attacked by gunboats in the southern Persian Gulf waters this morning. The 280,587 tonne Saudi "Splendor" supertanker was damaged in the attack, but there were no casualties. The location of the attack has been reported as 20 miles from Dubayy.

Nepal

Protest Made to India Over Border Incursion

BK171242 Hong Kong AFP in English 1224 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] Kathmandu, Dec 17 (AFP)—Nepal has lodged a strong protest with India, accusing Indian police of an armed incursion into Nepal last week, a Home Ministry spokesman said here Thursday. Houses were set on fire and property confiscated following an armed operation by Indian police in Manebhanjyang town on the border between Nepal and India's Darjeeling District, the spokesman said.

Indian police man-handled some villagers, he said, but added that there was "no report of loss of life on the Nepalese side".

"The Nepalese Government has taken a serious view of this incident and has lodged a strong protest to the Indian Government", he said.

More than 100 people have been killed since may 1985 in clashes between the Indian Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and the Gurkha National Liberation Front (GNLF) over land claimed by the Gurkhas in India's Darjeeling District in West Bengal.

The West Bengal government this week alleged that GNLF activists were being trained in Nepal and that they had attacked Indian Border Guards on the Nepal-Darjeeling border.

A senior Foreign Ministry official denied the allegation, describing it as an "irresponsible and baseless statement of the West Bengal government".

"We have made it clear time and again that the Gurkha land issue was purely and simply an internal issue between India and Nepal and has nothing to do with (India's) internal problems", the official said.

Kathmandu Report on Incident

BK171506 Kathmandu External Service in English 1415 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] His majesty's government [words indistinct] on Nepal-India border on 14 December and attention of the Government of India has been drawn on the matter and a protest has been lodged.

A spokesman of the Home Ministry said a group of police party from India intruded into Nepalese territory in the course of an armed operation carried out by them in the border township of Manebhanjyang on Nepal-India border on Monday, 14 December. Inquires have established that two houses on the Nepalese were set on fire and some properties were taken away [words indistinct]. In fact, incidents of manhandling have also been reported. There is no report of loss of life on the Nepalese side.

His majesty's government has taken a serious view of the incident of 14 December, the spokesman man said, and, added, attention of the Government of India has been drawn on the matter and a protest has been lodged.

Pakistan

UK State Minister Meets Prime Minister Junejo

BK180354 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 18 Dec 87

[Text] Lord Glenarthur, the British minister of state for foreign and Commonwealth affairs, called on Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo and discussed with him matters relating to bilateral relations and the Afghanistan question. The prime minister thanked the United Kingdom for supporting Pakistan's stand on Afghanistan. Later, the prime minister hosted a dinner in honor of the British minister of state and the members of his delegation.

Polish Delegation Meets Minister, Legislators

BK171539 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] The Polish parliamentary delegation led by the deputy speaker of the Parliament, Mr Marek Wieczorek, met federal local bodies minister, Iqbal Ahmad Khan, in Islamabad today. They exchanged views on cooperation between the rural development institutions of both countries.

The delegation also met the National Assembly speaker, Hamid Nasir Chatha. The leader of the Polish delegation stressed the close ties between the parliaments of both countries. The delegation also met the deputy chairman of the Senate, Malik Mohammad Ali.

Calls on President Ziaul Haq

BK180350 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 18 Dec 87

[Text] The Polish parliamentary delegation led by Marek Wieczorek called on President Mohammad Ziaul Haq in Rawalpindi last night. They exchanged views on the functioning of the Pakistani and Polish parliamentary systems and on ways to increase cooperation in economic, trade, and cultural fields. The president congratulated the delegation on the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between Pakistan and Poland. The president later hosted a dinner in honor of the delegation.

Earlier yesterday afternoon, Senate Deputy Chairman Malik Mohammad Ali Khan hosted a reception in honor of the Polish delegation.

Sri Lanka

IPKF Operations Against LTTE Depots Noted

BK181147 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1113 GMT 18 Dec 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Dec 18 (LANKA PUWATH)—The Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) has now captured over 100,000 rounds of ammunition from the LTTE in Jaffna this week. Official sources told LANKA PUWATH that yesterday Indian troops raided a LTTE underground ammunition dump at Chavakachcheri North and seized 43,000 rounds of 05.56 belted ammunition.

Earlier, the IPKF, on Wednesday, succesfully raided another LTTE ammunition dump at Chunnakam and captured over 40,000 rounds of ammunition.

Last Tuesday, the IPKF seized 20,000 runds of ammunition from LTTE ammunition depots in Jaffna. They also seized 1,200 kilograms of plastic explosives, 1,250 electric detonators and 220 rocket propelled grenades.

Another report states that 950 rounds of ammunition were seized from a LTTE ammunition dump in south west Alaveddy, Jaffna.

A hardcore LTTE terrorist 'Sritharam' alias 'Kajja' was apprehended at Chunnakam, while three other LTTE cadres were captured at Innuvil. A further two were apprehended by the WPKF at Araly west, bringing the total LTTE terrorists arrested in Jaffna yesterday to ten.

At Vallipuram Raj Kumar alias 'Appi' and Chandraratnam were apprehended by the IPKF while another LTTE cadre was captured at Kaithady.

A report from Iddaikadu states that the IPKF seized five hand grenades, five electric detonators and 10 rounds of 9mm ammunition from a vacant house at Iddaikadu.

A report from Mutur states that LTTE terrorists set fire to a store room at the CTB [Central Transport Board] depot at Mutur at 1730 hours (local time) yesterday despite efforts by the IPKF and police to put out the fire, the CTB store was gutted.

2 LTTE Members Surrender; Jaffna Normal

BK180506 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] In Sri Lanka, two more LTTE persons, including a woman, surrendered to the peacekeeping force [PKF] at (Maruthranangam) today. The PKF has also seized a printing press belonging to the LTTE at Chunnakam in the Jaffna peninsula. Three LTTE suspects were apprehended.

Meanwhile, normalcy prevailed in all parts of Jaffna during curfew relaxation period today. Transports plied normally. Shops and business establishments were also open.

Journalists' Groups on 'Danger' to Members

BK171351 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] Six journalist associations said that a grave danger is posed to the continuance of the mass media. In a joint release the associations point out the threat to media establishment and their employees. They have especially cited the killings of the four members of a television team in Jaffna. Also, these institutions will be placed in peril if certain sections are motivated to destroy things they dislike. The associations appealed to all forces, political parties, movements, and the people at large not to take part in or encourage all these antisocial steps from whatever sources they may emanate.

Indian High Commission on Civilian Deaths

BK180621 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0601 GMT 18 Dec 87

[Text] Colombo, Dec 18 (LANKA PUWATH)—The Indian High Commission in Colombo said yesterday that there had been no civilian deaths in an exchange of fire between the LTTE and the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] at Mullaitivu on Tuesday, according to today's 'DAILY NEWS'.

A high commission statement said that in Chilavattai in the Mullaitivu sector, an IPKF platoon had come under heavy automatic fire at 0730 hours (local time). It said that the IPKF lost five men killed including an officer and suffered six wounded. IPKF soldiers saw at least six dead being carried away by the LTTE into the jungles.

Subsequent LTTE messages confirmed that a prominent leader, Tiruchelvam, had died and another, Balaraja, was injured.

The Chilavattai area leader Subharatnam had succumbed to his injuries. The High Commission said there were no civilian deaths and the Sri Lanka JOC [Joint Operations Command] and Defence Ministry had confirmed that they had no reports of civilian casualties.

SUN Urges India To 'Fulfill Commitments'

BK180619 Colombo SUN in English 30 Nov 87 p 7

[Editorial: "The Futility of Courting Tiger"]

[Text] The 48-hour ceasefire earlier this month and the Indian offer of an amnesty with unprecedented incentives to LTTE rank-and-file who surrender, have both turned out to be a fallacy and a farce. The unilateral ceasefire, declared mainly at the urging of LTTE advocates and sympathisers, caught India napping.

LTTE mouthpieces, apparently awestruck by the suicidal tendencies of fanatics, had assured the LTTE would respond to a gesture of goodwill from India.

Probably much against military advice and at the risk of breaking the morale of the soldiers, New Delhi once again sought feathers from a violent tortoise. Instead of responding to the ceasefire the Tigers retaliated with violence. Like the metaphorical swine who turned around and attacked the pearl-bearer.

The LTTE, far from making any move to lay down arms, demanded further concessions that no self-respecting army could have agreed to.

But then in the aftermath of the fallout from this futile exercise, India has now come up with another carrot big and fleshy with plenty of incentives. They seem to be running in circles trying to win the hearts and the minds of these terrorists.

Saturday's LTTE response was a slur and a slap in the face for India and the world's third largest army which is suffering its heaviest casualties in recent years at the hands of a movement its politicians once nurtured.

The choice is now clear. Under the July 29 Peace Accord, Sri Lanka and India had certain commitments and obligations to fulfil.

President Jayewardene, though facing heavy odds and under heavy pressure, has moved to fulfil all of Sri Lanka's commitments. As he assured months ago, his ruling UNP voted en bloc for the controversial Provincial Councils Bill, paving the way for a large degree of autonomy for the Tamil people in the Northern and Eastern Provinces.

The Sri Lankan security forces have remained in barracks, and most of the suspects held under the PTA [Prevention of Terrorism Act] have been released.

Mighty India, for its part, had pledged it would ensure the militants laid down their arms and adhered to provisions of the July 29 accord. Four full months after signing the accord, India has still not kept its part of the bargain.

There is an important Aid Sri Lanka Group meeting on December 4. Sri Lanka needs more than 80 billion rupees for national reconstruction and rehabilitation and much of this is expected from the special meeting in Paris.

But little or nothing will come until peace is restored. We urge India to fulfil its commitments and fulfil them now. Any further delay or prevarication would amount to a betrayal of trust.

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